







**DEMAND FOR END TO SANCTIONS:** Thousands of Iraqi women holding children stage a protest in Baghdad on Tuesday demanding an end to the four-year old international sanctions imposed against their country following its invasion of Kuwait. The protest, organised by the Iraqi Women's Federation, was held to attract the attention of the U.N. Fourth Women's Conference being held in Beijing, China (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Paris aid to Algiers will continue — ex-spy chief

PARIS (AFP) — France's former counter-espionage chief believes Paris will continue backing the Algerian government economically and even militarily to stop the country turning fundamentalist, the popular daily Le Parisien said Tuesday.

Yves Bonnet, a deputy for the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF), said in an interview with the newspaper that France would maintain its support for the military-backed regime despite the recent spate of bombings in France suspected to be the work of Algerian fundamentalists.

Mr. Bonnet said the bombs — which included a metro blast July 25 which killed seven and injured scores more, and another explosion near the Arc de Triomphe three weeks later which injured 17 — were the work of desperate fundamentalists seeking to soften French support for the government of President Liamine Zerpoul in Algiers.

"Fundamentalists want to stir up public opinion and make it put pressure on the French government with the message: 'Keep your distance from the Algerian authorities because we've had enough of being targeted,'" Mr. Bonnet said.

Sunday another bomb misfired at a Paris market injuring four, while a week earlier, a device was discovered and disabled on the TGV line linking the French capital to Lyon.

Armed fundamentalists launched a civil war against the regime in Algiers after the government annulled January 1992 elections which the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The resultant civil strife — which has also included a clutch of deadly bombings in Algiers in recent weeks — and a governmental crackdown on armed groups has left more than 30,000 people dead.

But despite the conflict, Mr. Bonnet, who chairs parliament's Franco-Algerian friendship group, said he believed the fundamentalist threat was more serious than that posed by the military-backed government.

"France today has no other option but to continue supporting the Algerian government and to stop Algeria from turning to fundamentalism," he told Le Parisien. "To support it economically, even militarily."

### IFJ to open centre

In Brussels the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) announced Tuesday that would open a media centre in Algiers next month to help journalists and other intellectuals who have become favoured targets of Islamic terror attacks.

In a statement issued a day after the assassination of the 41st journalist to die at the hands of suspected Muslim radicals since May 1993, the IFJ said the centre would serve as an "international meeting point for solidarity for the media in Algeria."

The Brussels-based group said the centre "will help journalists and other creative people, artists and intellectuals, who are prime targets for the violent religious extremists and other unknown assassins."

"Despite the terrible assassinations, we cannot let Algeria become a no-go area for journalists," it said.

The IFJ said the centre would encourage the foreign media to cover Algerian events more intensively, particularly important in the run-up to controversial presidential elections scheduled to be held in 10 weeks.

Denouncing the wave of killings of Algerian journalists, the IFJ added: "It is not enough to express moral support far away from where the drama is unfolding."

"Journalists must be on the spot to challenge the brutality of those determined to eliminate our colleagues," the organisers stressed.

The IFJ represents more than 400,000 journalists in 92 countries.

The latest journalist to fall victim to radicals trying to topple the military-backed regime in Algiers was Yasmina Briki of Radio Culture, who was shot and killed Monday.

She was the 41st member of her profession to die since May 1993 and the third to be murdered in the space of 24

hours.

**Suspect 'opposes' violence**

An Algerian suspected of being a leading figure in an extremist group linked to a spate of attacks in Belgium told a court Tuesday that he opposed violence.

Ahmad Zaoui, 35, who is alleged to belong to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), one of the most radical of the guerrilla movements in Algeria, also called for more understanding of Muslims.

He is one of a dozen alleged GIA members who went on trial Monday after two police swoops aimed at dismantling the movement's network in Belgium.

"I support the struggle of people against the (Algerian) military junta to restore legitimacy, but I am against the blind violence which has crossed the borders of Algeria," he told the court here.

He said that, "following the wave of attacks in France," he hoped that "the political class will show more flexibility toward Islamists."

Judge Claire de Grysse will rule later this week on an application by lawyers for Zaoui and another Algerian that their clients were political prisoners and that the case should be transferred to a higher court.

The trial is expected to continue to Friday with the prosecution outlining its case Wednesday and the defendants pleading.

The accused — seven Algerians, two Moroccans, two Belgians of North African origin and a Libyan — are charged with various offences including belonging to a criminal organisation, fraud and weapons violations.

They face a maximum of five years in prison if found guilty.

The trial is being closely watched in France in the hope it will cast light on the activities of the GIA's European network. Zaoui is the top suspect in the three bombings in Paris.

Abdul Karim Deneche, the reported leader of the GIA in Europe, is currently in custody in Sweden. France has requested his extradition over the July 25 blast at the Saint Michel underground station.

## Turkish court to decide on MPs' fate

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's constitutional court will hear an appeal on Wednesday that could return pro-Kurdish members of parliament (MPs) and remove a stumbling block in relations between Ankara and its European allies.

Lawyers for the MPs from the Democracy Party (DEP) argue that under recent constitutional changes its 13 deputies should not have automatically lost their seats when the party was closed by the constitutional court in June 1994.

After changes approved by parliament in July to the 1982 military-era constitution, only people cited by name in the court's decision to close a party now lose their seats.

Previously all MPs who were party members when the closure case was filed lost their seats regardless of whether or not they were named in the closure decision.

The lawyers for the DEP deputies argue that the constitutional change should be back-dated to cover their case.

A favourable decision by the court on Wednesday would mean six deputies imprisoned last December for separatism — one DEP MP and one independent were freed for time served — could regain their parliamentary seats, lawyers said.

But only two of the DEP deputies, who lost their seats because of the party closure, would immediately regain their immunity and be released from jail.

The other five DEP MPs, including Leyla Zana, whose immunities were stripped in March 1994 before DEP was shut and independent of its closure, would have to wait for an appeals court decision on their sentences on Sept. 21.

Lawyer Yusef Alatas told Reuters he was not optimistic the constitutional court would rule in favour of the jailed MPs.

"This is not just a legal issue but a political issue. If it's a good decision it will be a big surprise," Mr. Alatas said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran court orders bride guests lashed

TEHRAN (R) — A bride has been sentenced to 85 lashes by an Islamic court in Iran for dancing with men at her wedding, a newspaper said on Monday. The court in the Holy City of Mashhad sentenced 127 guests at the Western-style wedding to floggings or fines and jailed one man, the daily Kayhan reported. Iranian police warned last month that weddings had to be organised according to strict Islamic rules, with separate rooms for men and women and without dancing or unauthorised music. The groom's sister was sentenced to 75 lashes for dancing with men and fined, but the groom was only fined, the report said. The court jailed the groom's father for 18 months, ordered him to pay 50 million rials (\$16,700 at the official exchange rate) in fines and seized some of his property for holding the party, it said. Most other guests received sentences ranging from 20 to 85 lashes and were ordered to pay fines, it added. Only a youngster was acquitted.

### Japan to help Egypt repair Sphinx

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan will offer to help repair the Sphinx in Egypt and the ruins at Palmyra in Syria when Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama visits the Middle East next week; it was reported here Tuesday. Mr. Murayama will leave Tokyo on Sept. 12 to visit Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Israel and the autonomous Gaza Strip for his first trip to the region since taking office in June last year. Details of what form the Japanese aid for the 1,500-year-old Sphinx will take will be decided after Mr. Murayama meets President Hosni Mubarak, said the Sankei Shimbun citing Foreign Ministry sources. Mr. Murayama will also offer Japanese help in repairing and maintaining pillars and shrines at Palmyra when he meets Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the newspaper said.

### Blast near brothel injures 3 in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — An explosive device left inside a trash can near a brothel went off Monday in downtown Karakoy district slightly injuring three passersby, the Anatolia news agency said. Raiders of Islamic Great East, an underground group which supports Islamic rule, claimed responsibility for the attack in telephone calls to newspaper bureaux. Extreme leftist and Kurdish groups are also active in this Metropolis of 12 million. Brothels are legal in this Muslim but secular country.

### Guerrilla killed by Israelis in S. Lebanon

RASHAYA (AFP) — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian guerrilla on Tuesday in dawn clashes inside the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon. Security services said. The Damascus-based Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) said their commandos "heading for targets inside occupied Palestine" clashed with an Israeli patrol in the east of the "security zone." Machinegun fire and hand grenades left an unspecified number of Israeli casualties, the guerrillas said in the statement. They did not mention any wounded or losses in their ranks. But security services said a member of the DFLP was killed. Sources close to the Palestinian groups also said a guerrilla died when Israeli troops shelled the region to prevent the commandos from retreating. The fighting happened on the western slopes of the Mount Hermon near the eastern borders with Syria and Israel.

### Lebanon breaks ties with British consultants

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon has decided to break a contract with the British firm, Cable and Wireless, because it bought a stake in the Israeli telecommunications company Bezeq, officials said on Tuesday. The decision was taken by the Lebanese Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephones after a recommendation by parliamentary committee. Two years ago the state-run Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) which oversees Lebanon's multi-billion post-war reconstruction schemes signed a contract with Cable and Wireless for an unspecified amount. Under the terms of the agreement the British firm would act as a consultant to help rebuild the war-shattered communications network in Lebanon. The deal was reached after the CDR ensured that Cable and Wireless was not on an Arab boycott list of firms dealing with Israel, officials said. However, a parliamentary commission recommended that the agreement be severed because the British firm had recently bought a 10 per cent stake in Bezeq and Communications Minister A Fadi Shalak agreed, the officials said.

### Egypt arrests 13 members of Jihad

CAIRO (AFP) — Police have arrested 13 members of the Muslim extremist group Jihad who were planning attacks on churches, banks and cinemas in the Egyptian capital, security sources said on Tuesday. The 13, including the leader of the Afifi Mustapha Ibrahim clan, were arrested over the past week in the northern Cairo slum of Shubra Al Khayma and accused of "seeking to revive the Jihad organisation." Two members of the cell remained at large, police said. Police found in the militants' hideouts weapons and plans to attack churches, banks and cinemas and to murder guards at the sites and steal their weapons, police said. Ibrahim confessed to investigators that the group had conspired to blow up a mosque and other explosives and had tested them in fields outside Cairo. Police were led to the cell by one of its members, Tareq Shafiq, a student at Al Azhar University, who confessed that he was storing bombs in a mosque where he worked in the Ataba area of President Anwar Al Sadat and is one of the leading groups in a wave of extremist violence that has left over 860 dead since March 1992.

## 'Jordan exercising its rights'

(Continued from page 1)

relations with all Arab countries without exception to serve the high interests of the Arab Nation" Mr. Sahaf said. What Mr. Assad said was "appreciated," he said.

### 'Iraq ordered tanks'

A Western diplomat, quoted by AFP, said Gen. Kamel had revealed that Iraq ordered from Russia 4,000 modern tanks to restore its land forces depleted by the 1991 Gulf war.

Gen. Kamel, former industry minister and the brains behind Iraq's weapons programmes, told U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that Baghdad had sealed "several arms contracts," the diplomat told AFP.

The most important agreed with Russia is for 4,000 tanks and would allow Iraq to modernise its land forces arsenal while guaranteeing exports of some of its oil to cover the costs.

Under the purported deal agreed a few months ago, the tanks would be delivered over several years once the U.N. embargo on Baghdad had been lifted. Gen. Kamel told Mr. Ekeus when they met in Amman on Aug. 22, according to the diplomat.

Gen. Kamel "told Ekeus... that Iraq's priority after the lifting of the embargo was to modernise its military strength," the diplomat said.

"This deal shows that Iraq wants to become once more the military power it was before the Gulf war" to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

### Reports of crisis 'exaggerated'

(Continued from page 1)

The council held a three-hour meeting on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Judge Khei Subehmat and asked judges to present their demands formally to the council.

Informed sources expected the crisis to be contained after a meeting between the Judiciary Council and the cabinet that it is likely to be held this week.

Legal sources said that if the resignation of the judges goes ahead, it will paralyse the judiciary in the country because the 20 to 23 judges who submitted their resignation from over two thirds of the 30 members of the Higher Council of Justice and the Court of Cassation.

Observers expected the government to reach a compromise with the judges, who made their move from a position of power knowing that the country cannot afford to let them proceed with their resignation.

In remarks to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tal sought to reassure the respect and appreciation.

occupation.

According to Western estimates Iraq only has about 2,200 T54, T55, T62 and T72 tanks left out of 5,500 it had before the 1991 conflict.

Gen. Kamel, said the diplomat, told Mr. Ekeus Baghdad was hoping to buy a modernised version of the Russian T72, the T80, which is already in service in the Russian army, as well as T90s due to go into use soon.

Iraqi papers said the country would resist what it said were attempts by Washington and allies to topple President Saddam.

State newspapers ridiculed Western media reports that President Saddam faced difficulties at home after the defections of the two Kamel brothers.

The Baghdad Observer said the United States was trying to "destabilise the political and security situation in Iraq to create pretexts to interfere in its internal affairs."

The paper said Iraq was certain that Washington would not commit ground forces to any possible attack on Iraq. It said Washington would use missiles and warplanes in its attack but these would not "intimidate the battle-hardened Iraqis."

The official Al Qadisiya newspaper said talk of an imminent end to Baath Party rule in Iraq is baseless. It said Iraq's enemies forgot that the membership of the ruling Baath Party "exceeded one and a half million people... Iraq and its leader will remain in bumper prosperity."

tion the executive holds for the judiciary.

Mr. Tal confirmed that the Ministry of Justice had not received the resignation of the judges. He said the government was concerned with the well-being of the judges, according to Petra.

The Judiciary Council is the body that presents the demands of the judges with pride and dignity. These demands are adopted by the Ministry of Justice in compliance with the royal directives that stress the independence of the judiciary and respect for its members," Mr. Tal said.

The minister said that government will work to meet all the needs of the judiciary, pointing out that it has proposed the allocation of 10 per cent of the revenues of courts to the budget of the judiciary.

This proposal, he said, will be presented to the next ordinary session of Parliament.

Independent sources said meanwhile an assertion by Mr. Tal that the judges' action was politically motivated was not true. Mr. Tal had made that comment in a report carried by the Al Ra'i daily.

## Arafat, Peres start talks today

(Continued from page 12)

members and the continued imprisonment of Ahmad Qatamesh, who has been jailed by Israel for two years without a trial.

The head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, on Tuesday called for the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks to be suspended saying they were "absurd."

"Stop these political negotiations which in fact are not political. These negotiations are absurd and only serve to harm the Palestinian cause as well as other tracks of the Arab-Israeli talks," Mr. Kaddoumi told reporters after talks in Beirut with Lebanese

Foreign Minister Fares Bouez.

Mr. Kaddoumi, a staunch opponent of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accords, charged Mr. Rabin was trying to make electoral gains through the talks.

"The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have become political pressure on the Palestinians. That is why we must stop them... evaluate what has been accomplished and see what can be done," he added.

In June, Mr. Kaddoumi advocated the relaunch of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 ..... Problem Child  
14:30 ..... Super Champ  
15:00 ..... Tomorrow's World  
15:30 ..... Amazing Stories  
16:00 ..... Families  
17:00 ..... Children's Programme — Rahun  
17:30 ..... Telefilm "Los Aventuras De Nestor Burma"  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Ushuaia  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe  
20:00 ..... Anything for a Laugh  
20:30 ..... The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:15 ..... The Heart of Healing  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Prism  
22:45 ..... The Blue Skies  
23:00 ..... Shakazulu

### PRAYER TIMES

04:49 ..... Fair  
06:09 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:34 ..... Dhuhur  
16:08 ..... 'Asr  
18:59 ..... Maghrib  
21:19 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel. 810740

## Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

### De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

### Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 771331

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261.

### Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771251

Armenian International Church Tel. 625526.

### Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641955

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654922

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675601,  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly but remaining two degrees centigrade below average, with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 771121  
Highway Police ..... 643432  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630331  
Hotel Complaints ..... 608800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 397467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Arman Municipality ..... 610230  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 637033  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 660103  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 06-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussain Medical Centre 813813/22

### For the Traveller

Queen Alia International Airport

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)

09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

09:55 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

10:10 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:50 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

15:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:45 ..... Madrid (RJ)

17:45 ..... Detroit, Amsterdam (add) (RJ)

18:00 ..... Paris (RJ)

18:15 ..... London, Montreal (RJ)

19:00 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

19:15 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:30 ..... Rome (RJ)

00:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)

01:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 ..... Jeddah (SV)

12:15 ..... Cairo (MS)

13:40 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)

18:20 ..... London, Beirut (BA)

18:35 ..... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

18:35 ..... Antalya (TK)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 600/400

Banana ..... 600

Beans (Mukammal) ..... 630

Cabbage ..... 140/80

Carrot ..... 380/280

Cauliflower ..... 240/180

Cucumbers (large) ..... 150/100

Cucumbers (small) ..... 260/180

Eggplant ..... 220/150

Figs ..... 370/250

Garlic ..... 700/500

Grapes ..... 750/650

Guava ..... 800/600

Lemon ..... 380/300

Marlow (large) ..... 250/150

Marlow (small) ..... 420/320

Malukhia ..... 150/100

Onion (dry) ..... 800/700

Onion (wet) ..... 250/180

Orange ..... 450/350

Peaches ..... 850/700

Pepper (hot) ..... 200/100



## Princess Basma tells Beijing conference Jordan sees family as nucleus of society

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has voiced Jordan's deep faith in the institution of the family as being the nucleus of society, and that life basically revolves around men and women as equal partners at the heart of this institution.

In her address to the World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Princess described the gathering as an "invaluable chance to channel our efforts and mutual cooperation to address the major challenges faced by women in all walks of life."

"As we gather here during the next 10 days, the eyes of the world are focused upon us. Women everywhere attach their hopes and aspirations to our meeting to come up with tangible solutions and actions to address their concerns and enable them to realise equality, development and peace," said the Princess.

Princess Basma, who is heading Jordan's delegation to the conference, expressed

the belief that the delegates agree that the focal point of the conference is its "Platform for Action."

"But to my mind, this would be of little meaning unless it is accompanied by a genuine commitment to genuine work," said the Princess who added: "The time for rhetoric is over, and it is now high time for deeds not words."

"Action should be taken not only by governments and international agencies, but by non-governmental organisations as well. In this process women should be integrated as full partners in all sectors of activity and empowered to become major players in decision-making," according to Princess Basma.

Referring to the status of women in Jordan, she said that Jordanian women have secured many gains in almost all fields. "For example, our educational enrolment rates at all levels are almost equal for males and females, women's participation in public governance is

gaining ground, and there are two Cabinet ministers, two senators, one parliament member, a mayor and nine female municipal council members.

"However, these achievements are overshadowed by a number of areas that still need improvement. Poverty is still a serious problem in the life of many Jordanian women and unemployment rates among women are double those of men," she added.

She said that in Jordan the public and private sectors are committed to women's advancement and promotion of equal opportunities with the family as the basic unit of society and women at its core, said the Princess.

She concluded by saying: "This world conference provides an extraordinary opportunity for all of us to share knowledge and perspectives on a global scale. It is my hope that our cooperation and interaction will produce results of a global proportion."

## Prime minister, cabinet members hear out demands of Jerash governorate

JERASH (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker announced here Tuesday that the Cabinet will soon allocate funds for distribution to various municipal and village councils in all governorates to help them cover their immediate needs.

At a meeting of Cabinet members, attended also by consultative and executive council members as well as heads of municipal councils in the Jerash governorate, the Prime Minister said the government hopes that these funds will be put to good use and invested in productive projects for the best interests of the local population.

Speaking after hearing an outline of the situation and requests by Jerash Governor Abdul Ghani Abdullah for financial assistance from the government to the local councils, Sharif Zeid said the government will study the governor's proposals and ideas before taking appropriate decisions.

The government is determined to study the problems facing various governorates and their needs for services, and will support the councils within its means, said the prime minister who emphasised that some of the municipal councils are in urgent need of central government assistance.

He suggested that the councils pool their resources for the sake of creating what he called a tourism region in Jerash Governorate along the style of the Petra Region Authority.

Sharif Zeid also called on these councils to launch productive projects in order to reduce the burdens on the ministries and other government departments.

He suggested that the



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday listens to municipal council members in Jerash appeal for financial assistance from the government. To Sharif Zeid's left is Jerash Governor Abdul Ghani Abdullah (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

councils start with small and medium size projects, especially those serving the tourism sector because Jerash is a significant tourism attraction.

Governor Abdullah had earlier reviewed the general situation in the governorate giving details about the various services and the needs of the local residents.

He said that the governorate needs offices for tourism and antiquities work, and an information office. He added that the

local hospital is in need of an intensive care unit and ambulances.

Jerash Governorate also requires more water supplies, and its Public Works Department requires additional heavy road and construction equipment, Mr. Abdullah said.

He also said that the governorate lacks a vocational training centre and sports facilities.

In response, Health Minister Aref Batayneh, who was present at the meeting, said

the local hospital will be supplied with a new ambulance by end of October, and work was under way to increase the hospital capacity from 124 to 159 beds.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat told the audience that his ministry was proceeding with plans to solve water supply problems, and Minister of Public Works Abdul Razzak Ensour said his ministry has allocated JD 2.1 million for maintaining roads this year.

Minister of Tourism Abdul

Ilah Khaib told the gathering that a tender has been floated for the improvement of the entrance to the ancient city of Jerash for the reorganisation of the tourist services centre at the site.

Other ministers addressed the meeting providing information about projects under way or planned for the Jerash Governorate.

According to Mr. Abdullah, Jerash Governorate has a population of 144,873 in 64 towns and villages.

## American firm to prospect for oil in Dead Sea, Jordan Valley regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trans Global, an American oil company, Tuesday signed an agreement of understanding with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to prospect for oil in the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley regions.

Under the agreement Trans Global is committed to drill at least two exploratory wells in the Dead Sea area, conduct seismicological surveys in areas extending for 150 kilometres in length and conduct geological and geophysical studies at the cost of \$300,000.

Khaled Shiyab, director of the NRA's oil department, said that the company is committed under the agreement to spend no less than \$7 million during its oil explorations in Jordan and

to pay \$3 million to the NRA in case oil has been discovered in exchange for seismicological data which the NRA would provide.

The company has also agreed to spend at least \$50,000 on training the NRA's cadres on the oil prospecting processes, according to Mr. Shiyab.

He said that the agreement with Trans Global entails basic conditions pertaining to the various stages of exploration process and the share of each party should oil production begin, adding that the NRA has obtained the best possible conditions under this agreement.

"According to Mr. Shiyab, the NRA has accumulated a great deal of information through its geological and geophysical surveys and drillings in different regions

and was ready to supply the data to the oil prospecting firms.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said in April that Jordan was ready to offer attractive terms to foreign companies interested in exploring for oil in the Kingdom.

He also said that several firms were studying the possibilities of taking up the Jordanian offer.

In his statement, Mr. Shiyab said other firms have already expressed interest in oil exploration in the same regions and in other parts of the country, adding that the NRA was expecting to sign other agreements with other oil companies before the end of 1995.

## Sabotage case postponed pending statements contesting jurisdiction

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The attorneys for two Jordanians accused of sabotage Tuesday asked the State Security Court to postpone their cases to allow them time to present written statements contesting the court's jurisdiction over the case.

The two defendants, Salem Abdullah Jaradat, and Ahmad Qasem, both 22, are charged with shooting and wounding a French diplomat last February while he and his wife were visiting Wadi Mujib area.

During the ten-minute court session, presiding Judge Hafez Amin read out the charge sheet which included plotting to carry

out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives and manufacturing hand-made explosives, but did not include an attempted murder charge.

When Judge Amin asked the two defendants how they plead, attorneys Hikmat Rawashdeh and Saleh Amrout demanded to postpone the case.

The court set Sept. 20 as the new date to hear the defence arguments.

According to the charge sheet, the two suspects, a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, made explosive devices with the intention of taking over a tourist bus in southern Jordan.

## Labour federation threatens pull-out from Social Security Corporation

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) said Tuesday it would pull out from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) board if the federation's requests are further ignored.

Omar Saraireh, head of the federation's information department, told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the FJLU has repeatedly asked that SSC regulations be amended to become more equitable.

The FJLU is seeking the minimum amendment by the SSC which involves a more reasonable calculation of retired workers' pensions.

Under the present system a civil servant's pension is calculated by multiplying his annual salary by .0166

and by the number of years the worker has been paying into the SSC.

For example, a civil servant whose annual salary prior to retirement was JD 3,600 and who has paid into the SSC for 35 years would calculate his pension as follows: JD 3600 x .0166 x 35 = JD 2091 annually, or JD 174.25 monthly.

The federation has requested an increase in pensions by raising the .0166 percentage rate to .0277, according to Mr. Saraireh.

He said the federation had also requested that the workers' families be covered by the SSC health insurance plan.

The federation has four members in the 12-member SSC board, and the threatened pull-out will paralyse the board's operations, Mr.

Saraireh said.

Mr. Saraireh added that in the event that nothing materialises after the pull-out of the four members, the federation will call on various organisations to end their cooperation with the SSC and to stop paying part of their employees' salaries to the SSC.

Last May Federation Secretary General Khaled Shreim announced that the FJLU was seeking an amendment to the SSC law to benefit the country's workforce.

In a statement issued on the eve of Labour Day (May 1) the federation said it was seeking to cover all workers including farm workers and their families under the SSC's health insurance programme even after their retirement.



President of the Hashemite University Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday deputises for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at a scientific day dedicated to stemming desertification. Dr. Hamdan is flanked by Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat (left) and Tareq Tal, president of the Agricultural Engineers Association (Petra photo)

## Scientific day event explores possibilities in stemming desertification

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, President of the Hashemite University Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday opened a scientific day devoted to the control of desertification, organised by the Jordanian Society for Control of Desertification and Rural Development in cooperation with the Agricultural Engineers Association.

Addressing the meeting, which was held at the Professional Associations Complex, Dr. Hamdan stressed

the need to provide a database which could serve as an indispensable basis for reaching concrete results, and for undertaking studies and research in this area.

He underlined the importance of forging closer cooperation between the public and private sectors, noting in particular the importance of collaboration between the Higher Council for Science and Technology and other academic institutions.

Upper House of Parliament member Abdul Latif Arabiyat, who heads the society, said a database is a

must for comprehensive national planning.

Dr. Arabiyat called for utilising this occasion to introduce Jordanian researchers and focus on their professional capabilities and diverse experiences, in addition to publishing their research.

This, he said, will be a prelude to a serious march to ensure the desirable changes.

President of the Agricultural Engineers Association Tareq Tal called for intensifying efforts to ensure comprehensive development.

## International meeting launches water supply, health initiatives

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second meeting of the Scientific Academies and Councils of the Middle East region, in collaboration with the United States National Academy of Sciences, Tuesday concluded, said an academies statement, with the approval of the following initiatives:

— A study on sustainable water supplies for the Middle East region was officially launched with the approval of a statement of task and membership of an expert panel. The report will be reviewed by an anonymous board of experts nominated by the academies and councils, after direct comments to the expert panel by the presidents committee.

— The participants agreed to assist the Palestine Health Council with its efforts to form an Academy of Sciences in Palestine.

— Three symposia to be held in the Middle East during 1996 were proposed and approved by the presidents as follows:

1. Meeting to develop priority research projects for international cooperation.
2. Workshop on food-based approaches for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies in the Middle East.
3. Workshop on improving access of health providers to centres of training and research.

The presidents agreed to continue their collaborative activities, and proposed to meet for the third time in mid-1996, perhaps in conjunction with one of the ongoing activities, the statement said.

## Jordan, Egypt sign cultural, scientific agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural and scientific agreement for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997.

The programme, which was signed for Jordan by Nabil Ammarin, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, and Fuad Salim, chargé d'affaires at the Egyptian embassy in Amman, provides for the two sides to cooperate in education, higher education, culture, archaeology, tourism, information, health, sports and youth, social development and financial affairs.

Under the terms of the

agreement, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education will make available 300 seats for undergraduate students from Jordan, and Jordan will offer 100 seats to Egyptian post graduate students at its universities.

The two sides will also exchange school curricula and textbooks and will hold seminars and conferences related to education according to the agreement, which also calls for Egypt to offer Jordan technical assistance in the creation of a national library.

Universities in the two countries will exchange teachers and help each other in holding joint scientific seminars and exchange pub-

lications and visits by students, sports and youth groups.

In the field of archaeology Egypt and Jordan will take part in each other's related conferences and seminars, will offer each other's facilities to tourist groups and will conduct a feasibility study on operating a direct air route between Aqaba and southern Sinai.

The two sides will cooperate in television productions, exchange documentary films and news material through their news agencies.

They also agreed to coordinate policies in marketing of pharmaceutical products and will exchange visits by experts in this field.

PLAY		WHAT'S GOING ON		EXHIBITIONS	
* Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Mule" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30.		* Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.		* Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. except Fridays.	
FILM		* "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet.		* Work by Ali Al 'Ubaidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
* "The Terrible Tales of Mr. Bean" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.		* Open Air Sculpture workshop.		* Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.	
LECTURE		* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.			
* Results of Excavation at Ein Ghazal" by Dr. Zeidan Kafafi at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m.		* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.			
		DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES			
		EXHIBITIONS			
		* Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.			
		* Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House.			



## Sri Lankan rebels say passengers of hijacked ferry will be freed today

COLOMBO (AP) — A week after seizing scores of hostages from a passenger ferry, Tamil rebels announced Tuesday they will free most of their captives within 24 hours.

In a broadcast on their clandestine radio, the rebels said they will take the passengers to their stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula and hand them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross Wednesday.

It did not say whether all 136 passengers who were on the ferry would be freed. It also did not mention the fate of the eight crew members of the Iris Moana, which they seized on Aug. 28.

Among the passengers were three newborn babies and 12 other children. The rebel broadcast was monitored by civilians in northern Sri Lanka.

Most of the passengers were believed to have disembarked from the ferry last week and were taken to a guerrilla base, but government officials don't know how many people were still on board the vessel.

The ferry was anchored off the coast of Mullaitivu, 280 kilometres northeast of Colombo, and the rebels have cut off communications to it.

Deputy Defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte warned Monday that the rebels would not be allowed to sail

the ferry and its passengers to Jaffna, 75 kilometres northwest across the Jaffna Lagoon.

The military Monday shelled rebel boats moving between the guerrilla base and the ferry, a military official said Tuesday.

None of the rebel craft were hit by the shelling from a military base four kilometres from the ferry, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"The shells were fired away from the ferry so that the passengers would not be in danger," said the official.

Last Tuesday, the separatists boarded the ferry and used it as bait to lure naval gunboats into a battle. Two navy ships were destroyed, apparently killing all 21 sailors.

Red Cross and other officials said they could not confirm a report that two crew members were killed some time during the last week, and they believed the report was incorrect.

All of the passengers are Tamils, but the rebels say some belong to the Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party, a former Tamil separatist group that joined forces with the military to fight the guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Four of the crew members also were Sinhalese. The rebels have been

fighting for a homeland in the north and east for 12 years to redress what they see as discrimination by the Sinhalese, who control the government and the military.

More than 36,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Meanwhile a top police officer has been transferred over suspicion that his elite commandos strangled 21 Tamil civilians in their office in the capital and dumped the mutilated bodies in lakes, officials said Tuesday.

Deputy Inspector-General Lionel Karunasena, who founded the Special Task Force in 1984, has been assigned to the police headquarters in Colombo in what is considered to be a demotion.

Last Wednesday, Police Chief Wickremasinghe Rajaguru said that 28 people, including elite police commandos, were under investigation for allegedly torturing and strangling to death the Tamil civilians.

It was not immediately clear if officer Karunasena was under suspicion, but detectives investigating the crime have questioned a number of other senior commandos, officials said.

The civilians were abducted from cheap hotels or while travelling in Colombo during the last four months. They were suspected to be

Tamil rebels fighting for a homeland.

The civilians were taken to the Special Task Force Headquarters in the capital, and tortured for five or six days. They were then thrown into an unused toilet with plastic handcuffs around their necks, which strangled them to death.

Police have not uncovered the motive for the killings. But they occurred against the background of the resurgence of the 12-year-old war against guerrillas fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minorities.

The first bodies of men aged 30-40 years began to appear in lakes in and around the capital after the rebels broke a three-month truce and pulled out of peace talks on April 19.

Most of the bodies were nude. Some had mutilated genitals. Others were weighted down with rocks to prevent them floating.

Human rights activists have repeatedly expressed concern over the disappearance of minority Tamils while in police custody, extra-judicial executions and arbitrary arrests.

Police have detained thousands of Tamil civilians in Colombo after the rebels resumed fighting. But most of them were released after their identities were established.



Officers lead away an injured protester after riot police broke up an anti-Harmoko demonstration near police headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia (AFP photo)

## Indonesian police break up protest over minister's insult to Islam

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian anti-riot police broke up a demonstration by about 100 youths outside the attorney-general's office Tuesday demanding that Minister Harmoko be brought to trial for insulting Islam.

The protesters, from the Assembly for the Safeguarding of People's Sovereignty (MPKR) chanted "Allah akbar (God is Great)... Bring Harmoko to trial."

Ten of them were allowed to put their case to officials in the attorney-general's office. But when the protesters began marching towards the nearby police headquarters about 20 anti-riot police formed a cordon to stop them.

After 15 minutes the police began banging their shields, then marched in formation into the crowd, beating protesters.

At least one protester received head injuries, an AFP photographer on the

scene said.

About 15 soldiers, known as the "Raiders Squad," pursued protesters on yellow motorbikes to make them disperse.

Mr. Harmoko, officiating at a shadow puppet festival in Solo, central Java, on July 15, made a pun on a verse of the Koran. He has since apologised to Muslims both through the press and on national television.

But Muslim groups have continued with demonstrations in recent weeks demanding that Mr. Harmoko, who chairs the ruling Golkar Party and is considered a potential vice-presidential candidate, be taken to court.

"Apologies are apologies, but justice should be the important one," former parliamentarian Sri Bintang Pamungkas said at the demonstration which included women wearing the Islamic jilbab headress.

Insulting Islam is a serious

offence in Indonesia where almost 90 per cent of Indonesia's 190 million people are Muslims.

Many protesters have contrasted the reaction to Mr. Harmoko's offence and that against prominent seer Permedi for allegedly comparing Prophet Mohammad to a dictator.

The country's highest authority on Islam, the Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI) has accused Mr. Permedi of blasphemy, but has accepted Mr. Harmoko's apology.

Mr. Permedi could be jailed for one year if convicted. Mr. Bintang, a member of the Muslim United Development Party (PPP) currently being investigated by authorities for allegedly insulting President Suharto, told AFP that "our law is only for the common people. For the bureaucrats, they are untouchable. Justice is not for all."

## Charlie Sheen marries model

MALIBU, California (AP) — After a whirlwind courtship, actor Charlie Sheen has married his sweetheart of six weeks, model Donna Peele. Hours before the wedding, Sheen admitted to suffering a bad case of pre-nuptial jitters, but kept the faith in his dash to the altar. "My research and travel has shown me... people who court for a decade usually have a marriage that lasts only a couple of years," Sheen said. The couple were married at sunset at the Saddle Rock Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, said Sheen publicist Jeff Ballard. Sheen, who also turned 30 Sunday, met Ms. Peele, 25, while filming a commercial in New York City. It's the first marriage for both. Sheen has starred in such films as Platoon, Wall Street and Hot Shots. His latest publicity, however, has been in a courtroom, where he sweated through a videotape made for a federal jury in the trial of Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss. Sheen admitted that he had ordered Ms. Fleiss' call girls at least 27 times, running up a tab of more than \$50,000.

## Runaway, 12, spends \$10,000 at Disneyland

PARIS (AFP) — A 12-year-old runaway who stole 70,000 francs (\$14,000) from his parents spent most of the cash at Disneyland Paris, hiring a room at the theme park's most expensive hotel for 10 days. As his parents searched for him, placing missing person advertisements in newspapers, Lamine Ghalimi repeatedly visited all the attractions at the theme park east of Paris and took a 2,000-Franc (\$400) room at its most expensive hotel, Disneyland Hotel, the daily Parisien Libere reported. Lamine, who took the cash from the till of his parents' Paris hotel, told the receptionist, "I'm here with my mother but she is busy and told me to take the room," the report said. When Disneyland security staff finally became suspicious of Lamine, he had only 20,000 francs (\$4,000) left on him. Police did not specify his nationality. When he grew tired of Disneyland, Lamine decided to visit a nearby rival, the Asterix Theme Park, hiring a 5,000-franc (\$1,000)-a-day stretch limousine, again without arousing suspicion, the report said. His mother was forgiving about Lamine's escapade. "He always seems sure of himself and people believe him. The main thing is he came to no harm. He knows it was a very naughty thing to do," she said.

## Book backs theory Tchaikovsky was gay 'martyr'

LONDON (AFP) — A new biography of Peter Tchaikovsky has backed the theory that the Russian composer did not die of cholera as was officially recorded but committed suicide, the victim of the anti-gay climate of 19th century Russia. Anthony Holden, author of Tchaikovsky published this week in London, told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper: "He didn't want his devoted public nor posterity to know he was gay" and said he committed suicide by taking arsenic after being "caught." In the 19th century, "homosexuality was illegal. The rule was don't get caught. He was caught by the uncle of a Russian nobleman who complained to the czar, he (Tchaikovsky) described it (being gay) as unnatural and a vice," the biographer said. "Fancy rumour and gossip," retorted Alexander Poznansky, another Tchaikovsky specialist, who discounts the suicide theory while accepting the composer's homosexuality. Poznansky, a Russian immigrant who teaches at Yale, is the author of a 1991 biography, and is preparing a second book on the subject.

## Hurricane winds slam Leeward Islands

LONG GROUND, Montserrat (R) — Hurricane Luis battered this volcano-threatened island early Tuesday in a path of destruction expected to skip across a half-dozen Caribbean islands.

Luis, classified as a deadly storm with sustained winds of 140 mph (225 km) by the National Hurricane Centre, appeared to be gathering strength as it began lashing the Caribbean's Leeward Islands.

Hurricane-force winds extended 125 miles (201 kms) from the eye of Luis, which became more tightly wound and dangerous late Monday, forecasters said.

At 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT), the eye of Luis was located 70 miles (113 kms) east of Antigua and Barbuda, but its surrounding bands of strong winds had already begun lashing both islands and nearby Montserrat.

A large storm, Luis was moving west at 12 mph (19 kmh) and was expected to slow down and pound each island for several hours.

Hurricane warnings were also issued for Puerto Rico. If it remained on its current course and direction, Luis was expected to slam into the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Wednesday, then push on toward the Dominican Republic Thursday.

Luis was a frightening reminder of hurricane Hugo, a similar-sized storm which rampaged through several of the same northern Caribbean islands in 1989 before veering north to strike South

Carolina. Hugo, the worst storm to hit some of the islands in more than 60 years, was blamed for two dozen deaths and billions of dollars of damage.

Residents mindful of the devastation from Hugo calmly streamed into emergency shelters on Montserrat, Antigua, Barbuda and adjacent Leeward Islands on Monday afternoon.

Electricity was cut off on several islands by local governments to prevent electrocutions from dangling live wires after the storm passed. Palm trees swayed and seas heaved as the edge of the storm reached Montserrat, a British colony, and Antigua late Monday night.

Most of Montserrat's weary 12,000 residents had already moved into emergency shelters late last month when a long-dormant volcano began spewing plumes of ash and sulphur. An international team of scientists and British soldiers on the island to monitor the volcano also took shelter.

More than 100 British soldiers were standing by to help Montserrat clean up debris after the storm passed, officials said. On the U.S. Virgin Islands, an advance team of Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster experts were readying for Luis.

Florence Daley, coordinator of a Montserrat shelter for elderly and handicapped, said residents remained calm but were clearly worried.

"These people have addi-

tional stress here. They are remembering Hugo and they are frightened," Ms. Daley said, referring to hurricane Hugo, which destroyed or severely damaged 95 per cent of Montserrat's houses.

On other islands, residents also hurried to board up homes and gather bottled water, canned food and other supplies.

"We've never had so many people in shelters before. We're all very apprehensive," said John De Nully, an emergency management spokesman in neighbouring Antigua. "We in the Caribbean at times have treated hurricanes indifferently. But not this time."

Tourists were urged to leave the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on a handful of final flights Tuesday. The airports were jammed Monday after many tourist resorts urged guests to depart before hurricane Luis cut off power, phone lines and running water.

Unlike the record number of hurricanes which have danced across the Atlantic since June, Luis appeared to be growing stronger with no other weather systems to interrupt its westward course.

Forecasters at the Hurricane Centre in Miami said it was too early to determine if Luis could pose a threat to the U.S. eastern seaboard or gulf coast in five or six days. Luis was about 1,800 miles southeast of Miami early Tuesday morning.

## Clinton to teach class to highlight education

MONTREY, Calif. (R) — President Bill Clinton, a University of Arkansas law professor, before he turned to politics, plans to teach a history class to some 25 California eighth graders.

As millions of American children return to the classroom after their summer vacations, Mr. Clinton is marking the end of his vacation before returning to Washington to tackle a fall agenda brimming with problems such as how to balance the budget and end the war in Bosnia.

Before returning to the White House, Mr. Clinton is also scheduled to speak to the student body and faculty of Abraham Lincoln Middle School in Selma, California, a small rural town south of Fresno in the central valley.

With these appearances, the president is clearly signalling that support for education will be a key goal as he fights Republican efforts to cut government spending.

"Educators, students and parents need to be aware that our nation's investments in education — in our children's future — are under direct attack by the Republican majority in the House" of Representatives, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Monday in a letter to the nation's editors.

A White House fact sheet further said that in his remarks, "the president will stress the importance of investment in education and make clear his commitment to stand against those who would turn back the advancements America has made in education during his presidency."

After Mr. Clinton boards Air Force One to fly the last leg of his 21-day trip that included a two-week vacation in Wyoming's Teton Mountains with wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, he will have to face an end-of-September deadline to battle Republicans to set budget priorities.

If there is no agreement by then, federal departments and agencies are likely to enter the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 without new funding legislation.

The outcome of the budget fight could have a major impact on the 1996 presidential race, which already seems to be in full swing, even though the election is still 14 months away.

## Dole calls for English-only education

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — after a non-binding straw poll in Iowa last month in which he unexpectedly ended up in a tie with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm with only 24 per cent of the vote, Iowa next February will stage the first binding vote of the 1996 campaign.

Meanwhile California Gov. Pete Wilson, one of eight other candidates for the Republican nomination, welcomed Sen. Dole to the cause of making English the official language of the United States. Mr. Wilson said in a statement he had called on Congress to do so as a U.S. senator from California in August 1986.

The Iowa straw poll set off a wave of media articles expressing doubts that Sen. Dole had the ideological fire to unite the Republican Party and the vision to win the presidency.

Conservatives who control the party are particularly anxious about Sen. Dole's right-wing credentials, despite the candidate's frequent bows in their direction.

The Indianapolis speech, and another Tuesday in Chicago in which Sen. Dole is expected to outline con-

servative tax ideas, were intended to quell such doubts, campaign officials said.

Sen. Dole, a World War II hero, received an enthusiastic response for a 10,000-strong audience of fellow military veterans in Indianapolis for a speech laced with patriotic pride in which he also pledged to pass a constitutional amendment in the Senate by the end of the year outlawing burning or desecration of the national flag.

Sen. Dole also renewed his assault on Hollywood for spreading sex and violence. But his main targets were educators seeking to re-examine U.S. history and boost the teaching of other cultures and languages.

"We must stop the practice of multi-lingual education as a means of instilling ethnic pride, or as a therapy for low self-esteem or out of elitist guilt over a culture built on the traditions of the West," Sen. Dole said.

He said there was a shocking and deliberate campaign by liberal educators at all levels to disparage and undermine American and traditional Western values.

## L. American presidents gather to discuss corruption, drug trafficking

QUITO (AP) — Presidents from 12 Latin American nations opened a two-day summit Monday in this Andean capital to debate poverty, drug trafficking and official mismanagement.

With corruption at an all-time-high, a nationwide poll released Monday showed Latin Americans ranked dishonest officials as the region's No. 1 problem.

"Corruption, unfortunately, has become a widespread social illness," Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran-Ballen admitted in an address opening the summit.

Thirty-eight per cent ranked corruption as Latin America's No. 1 problem, while government mismanagement came in as the second most serious issue with 13 per cent, according to the poll of 10,000 people in 23 countries. Drug trafficking was third with 11 per cent.

The poll was conducted simultaneously by independent public opinion firms in the different countries and had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 per cent. Cedatos, the polling firm in charge of surveying Ecuador, released the results in Quito Monday.

Corruption in the region has intensified due to the large amounts of money managed by drug trafficking cartels and to the sudden wealth from oil exports enjoyed by countries like Venezuela and Ecuador.

"Although drugs are not the only source of corruption, they are the principal one for countries like Colombia afflicted by that plague," Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo has said.

In Ecuador, former President Osvaldo Hurtado said, "a culture of easy money and illegal enrichment" was born when the country began exporting oil in the early 1970s.

The summit of the 14-member Group of Rio takes place as three current or former high-ranking government leaders face charges of corruption.

—In Colombia, President Ernesto Samper is suspected of having funded his 1994 election campaign with contributions from the Cali cocaine cartel.

—In Venezuela, former President Carlos Andres Perez is on trial on charges of illegal use of public funds.

—In Ecuador, Vice President Alberto Dahik faces impeachment by Congress and a criminal trial by the Supreme Court on corruption charges.

Mr. Dahik was accused of corrupt practices after he admitted the government had given in to demands from opposition congressmen for payments to support legislation proposed by the government.

## Blast rips through marketplace in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia (R) — A strong explosion rocked a market Tuesday in the centre of Grozny, capital of Russia's breakaway Chechnya region, and witnesses told reporters one person was killed and several were injured.

It was not immediately clear what caused the blast, one day before the region celebrates "Independence day" — the fourth anniversary of its unilateral declaration of independence from Moscow.

The witnesses said they suspected the makeshift market had been hit by an artillery shell, although fighting has eased under a ceasefire between separatist forces and Russian troops sent last December to smash Chechnya's bid for independence.

"I saw one dead person and several others were hurt," Ismail Akayev, a construction worker, told Reuters.

Another man's shirt was

covered with blood after he helped take some of the wounded to hospital.

Russian officials did not immediately comment on the incident.

Meanwhile Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy arrived in rebel Chechnya Tuesday, one day before the separatists' "Independence day."

Oleg Lohov, secretary of the policy-making Security Council, told reporters on his arrival in the regional capital Grozny he would spend at least a week there.

"We will work, not celebrate. Others will celebrate," Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Lohov as saying when he was asked what he would do Wednesday.

Chechnya unilaterally declared itself independent of Russia on Sept. 6, 1991, and Russian troops in the rebel region are being put on alert in anticipation of celebrations marking the day. Interfax said patrols in

Grozny were being reinforced.

The rebels have said that they would not take any action against Russian troops but a representative of the Russian military told Interfax that rumours of a "day of vengeance" were circulating in the Chechen capital.

Russia sent in its troops last December to crush Chechnya's bid for independence. Thousands of rebels, Russian soldiers and civilians have been killed in seven months of fighting.

Skirmishes have continued since an agreement in late July under which the rebels are to surrender most of their weapons in return for a partial Russian withdrawal.

There has been little progress towards implementing the agreement on a handover of weapons and the two sides have yet to begin substantive talks on the region's future.



## N.Ireland Protestants to pick new leader

BELFAST (AP) - Ulster Unionists have spent a generation condemning the IRA from a distance. This week, with peace talks in the balance, they may pick a leader willing to meet the enemy face to face.

The leadership election Friday for Northern Ireland's largest party will help determine whether the prevailing open-ended ceasefires can be turned into a solid peace.

Peace talks simply won't work without the constructive participation of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the dominant Protestant bloc since Britain founded this Protestant-majority state in 1920. The question on every commentator's lips: will the new leader sit down with Irish Republican Army (IRA) supporters?

Three of the five Protestant candidates say they would - if the IRA commits itself to disarm. Two remain so suspicious of the IRA's year-old truce, that they believe the IRA-allied Sinn Féin party still must be "decontaminated" by time.

There's no clear favourite to succeed James Molyneux, the 75-year-old bachelor who resigned earlier this month. A self-described "dull dog," he kept the party together for 16 years by shunning innovation.

Last year's truces by the Catholic-based IRA and Protestant "loyalist" extremists have created space for negotiations among the factions in Northern Ireland's political-religious conflict.

The British and Irish governments, keen to get all sides around a negotiating table soon, see the two most flexible candidates as Ken Maginnis and John Taylor - both 57 and both survivors of IRA assassination attempts.

The core of the party traditionally demands a leader who senses when to say no. For them, the fact that either government privately roots for Mr. Taylor or Mr. Maginnis is sufficient reason to vote for someone else.

Mr. Maginnis, a former British army officer, has developed friendly contacts with the predominantly Catholic south. He often travels south to cheer the all-Ireland rugby team and socialises with Dublin politicians, offending colleagues who brand the Irish Republic a haven for IRA terrorists.

Mr. Maginnis last year debated Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams on CNN's "Larry King Live," the first party member to do so. But he refused to shake hands and snubbed Mr. Adams' attempts at first-name friendliness.

The British government prefers Mr. Taylor, a churchman who showed his maverick streak when he quickly declared the IRA's ceasefire was "for good" - the most senior Ulster Unionist to do so. Mr. Maginnis, by contrast, frequently predicts its imminent breakdown.

IRA gunmen shot Mr. Taylor through the face in 1972 when he was a cabinet member of the former Protestant-dominated Northern Ireland government. He required extensive plastic surgery.

Today, he owns newspapers in Northern Ireland and has built substantial business contacts in the south.

Mr. Maginnis and Mr. Taylor would like to break the party's fundamental links with the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's main Protestant-only fraternal group, to attract Catholic support for the first time.

That would be no easy task. Of about 860 members of the governing Ulster Unionist Council who will elect the new leader, about 130 are directly selected by the Orange Order. Most of the rest are Orange Order members.



U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton speaks at the Women and Health seminar sponsored by the World Health Organization at the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (AFP photo)

## Hillary Clinton attacks China on human rights

BEIJING (R) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attacked China Tuesday, saying women taking part in a grassroots forum near Beijing had been prohibited from fully taking part and expressing themselves freely.

"It is indefensible that many women in non-governmental organisations, who wished to participate in this conference, have not been able to attend - or have been prohibited from fully taking part," she told the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women.

"Let me be clear. Freedom means the right of people to assemble, organise and debate openly," she told a plenary session.

"It means respecting the views of those who may disagree with the views of their governments," she said in a hard-hitting speech clearly directed at host China, accused of harassing participants with heavy-handed surveillance and security measures at the grassroots Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Forum on Women.

"It means not taking citizens away from their loved ones and jailing them, mistreating them, or denying them their freedom or dignity because of the peaceful expression of their ideas and opinions," she told the world's biggest United Nations conference.

The issue of police harassment and surveillance has marred much of the grassroots Forum on Women that

opened last Wednesday and runs parallel to the U.N. conference.

Exiled Tibetan women delegates have been followed and harassed by security guards, radical feminists such as lesbians have had their Chinese-language publicity pamphlets confiscated by police and human rights activists have come under intense surveillance.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Public Security Tian Qiyu sought last week to restrict activities at the NGO Forum, saying "democratic elections would be allowed only in a designated area and China would not tolerate slander or attacks on its leaders."

But many groups have ignored his restriction of protests to a school sports field.

The top Chinese police official at the conference said speech was free but only if it did not contain language aimed at splitting China - a reference to what Beijing calls attempts by Tibet's exiled Dalai Lama to win independence for the Himalayan region.

U.N. officials say China had no right to order or enforce such restrictions inside the Forum and the venue of the U.N. conference that opened Monday.

Disputes over the intense security at the Forum have threatened to overshadow the gathering of 25,000 women whose aim is to focus on the battle for equality and rights.

## Japanese police to seek anti-cult lawyer's remains

TOKYO (R) - Some 1,000 police officers will begin search Wednesday for the remains of a lawyer, his wife and infant son who disappeared six years ago after helping defectors from the Aum doomsday cult, police said on Tuesday.

Accompanied by forensic scientists, they would comb three areas in the mountains of central Japan for the remains of Tsutsumi Sakamoto, 33 when he disappeared, his wife Satoko, 29, and their one-year-old son Tatsuhiko, a police official said.

He said testimony from cult followers revealed that Sakamoto's body was buried in mountains in Niigata, a prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast, while Satoko's was dumped in a valley in neighbouring Toyama and Tatsuhiko's remains were left in marshlands in Nagano.

The three disappeared from their flat in Yokohama in 1989, after Sakamoto had become active in a group of lawyers helping defectors from the Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth sect). Suspicion immediately fell on the cult. It has always

denied involvement, but was widely believed to have felt threatened by the lawyer's activities. A badge worn by its senior members was left behind in Sakamoto's home.

However, though the Aum never explained how the badge was left there, police did not officially link it to the disappearance until they began investigations into the sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in March.

Following raids of cult facilities and a round-up of its leading members, public prosecutors charged followers with a series of violent crimes - the subway gassing, which killed 11 people and made another 5,500 ill, a separate sarin attack in a mountain resort last year that killed seven people, several kidnappings, and producing illegal drugs.

According to reports by newspapers and the Kyodo News Agency - based on briefings open only to the domestic media - Aum members arrested on these and related charges admitted to murdering the family.

## Lebed lends star power to Russian nationalists

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia's most popular general traded in his uniform for a suit and tie and took his place among leaders of a nationalist bloc that kicked off its campaign for December parliamentary elections.

Retired Gen. Alexander Lebed, the 45-year-old dissident commander with a basso voice and a bulldog face, has become one of the more formidable figures in Russian politics, polls show. A harsh critic of President Boris Yeltsin and a defender of the rights of ethnic Russians, Gen. Lebed is the best-known name on the ticket led by Yuri Skokov, a former top Yeltsin aide who fell out with the president in 1993 and maintains close ties to big industry.

Analysts say Gen. Lebed's star power and Mr. Skokov's connections could help their movement, the Congress of Russian Communities, find support among Russians nostalgic for the days when they were the unquestioned leaders of a superpower.

Writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn has reportedly signed on as a political adviser.

"The patriotic idea is now in great demand," the daily Kommersant said in a weekend editorial that gave the

alliance better-than-average odds among the many political movements trying to harness that idea.

Leaders of the bloc came out hitting at a news conference Monday.

They criticised the pro-government movement led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at every opportunity, accusing it of allowing widespread corruption, the sell-off of Russia's wealth, the humiliation of Russians in other former Soviet republics, and the carnage of war in Chechnya.

Gen. Lebed reserved some of his harshest remarks for NATO, condemning its expansion into Eastern Europe and its air strikes on Bosnian Serbs.

"Now that the Soviet Union no longer exists, (NATO's) fist threatens Russia because there is no other enemy there," he said.

"This passionate desire to expand and monopolise security in the whole world could have only one result - that sometime in the future, Russia would renounce all its previous agreements and take up a strategy of containment."

Gen. Lebed, an Afghan War veteran, became a

household name when his 14th Army restored order after a 1992 separatist rebellion in the trans-Dniester region of the former Soviet Republic of Moldova.

Popular among his troops, he freely criticised the army brass and Mr. Yeltsin himself, especially over Chechnya, and resigned this spring when the army decided to scale back his command.

Although virtually every election bloc in Russia now has a general on the ticket, few have Gen. Lebed's notoriety.

Considered a presidential contender, he has topped other major candidates in recent popularity polls, including one by the Russian Centre for Public Opinion and Market Research. The group released a new survey Monday asking what people found most attractive about Gen. Lebed.

The most popular response was, "He is capable of putting things in order."

But Gen. Lebed has little experience in politics, and many Russians are uncomfortable with his military machismo.

"These manners, including an army sense of humour, are highly typical

of the chief of a garrison guardhouse - a place well-known to many Russian men but which hardly left any pleasant memories to persuade them to vote for the embodiment of it," columnist Mikhail Sokolov wrote in Kommersant.

Mr. Skokov, who once headed Mr. Yeltsin's powerful Security Council and was a contender for prime minister, said his bloc is not nationalist, but is united by "our sense of compassion for our humiliated homeland."

He would not say where the bloc expects to find funding, although it is believed to be supported by some major industrial groups. It passed out glossy campaign booklets opening with a picture of Gen. Lebed, in uniform, shaking hands with Mr. Skokov.

Meanwhile Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Tuesday that the Russian Armed Forces should number around 2.1 million personnel, although there is pressure for the mostly conscript force to be cut.

The 2.1 million figure is optimal and 1.7 million is the minimum for the armed forces to be able to defend Russia, Gen. Grachev was quoted as saying by Interfax

News Agency.

The current number is around 1.9 million personnel, according to the latest figures.

Gen. Grachev, who was in the far southeastern Russian city of Khabarovsk, near the Chinese border, said reform of the armed services was going well.

"We succeeded in stopping the process of deterioration of our battle readiness," he said.

Military planners aimed to create new, mobile units to meet today's conditions, he said.

The Russian Armed Forces, particularly during its campaign in the rebel Republic of Chechnya, have been criticised as outdated, badly trained and lacking innovation.

There are reportedly chronic shortages of food, ammunition and other supplies.

In June last year, President Yeltsin said the armed forces should be reduced to 1.5 million men and women, although he did not give a deadline.

## Police: Suicide bomber killed Punjab's top official

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) - Punjab state's top elected official was probably killed by a rebel suicide bomber, who detonated explosives strapped on his body, the state's police chief said Monday.

Earlier, police had said that Thursday's blast in Chandigarh, Punjab's capital city, that killed Chief Minister Beant Singh and 14 members of his staff, was caused by a car bomb that was detonated by a remote control device.

The explosion occurred as Mr. Singh stepped into his official bulletproof car parked in the porch of his office.

"We are almost reasonably convinced that a human bomb was used to cause the explosion," Police Chief K.P.S. Gill told reporters in Chandigarh.

Although Sikh rebels have used different varieties of bombs and weapons such as rocket-launchers, this was the first case of an attack by a suicide bomber.

Babbar Khalsa International, a Sikh separatist group that still operates in the state where troops have successfully crushed a decade-old insurrection, claimed responsibility for the attack last week.

The group, one of the fiercest and most well-armed, was known to have expertise in handling explosives. It was among the dozens of militant groups fighting for an independent homeland for the Sikh religious minority. Most of India's 20 million Sikhs live in Punjab.

The body of a person, the police suspect to be the assassin, has been found, Mr. Gill said. This was the only body found from the blast site outside the state's main government building that had not been identified, he said.

Police had earlier presumed that the body was that of a member of Mr. Beant Singh's staff that they were unable to identify because it was badly mutilated.

## Coal mine blast kills 15 in Siberia

MOSCOW (AP) - An explosion at a coal mine in Siberia caused a cage bringing workers down to the pit's surface to collapse, killing 15 miners, a news agency reported.

The explosion at the Perovskaya Mine in Kemerovo, 3,000 kilometres east of Moscow, occurred early Monday, the Interfax News Agency reported.

It said the explosion was planned so as to open new coal faces, but a report from the ITAR-TASS news agency stated that it came unexpected.

The shock wave from the blast destroyed a large production facility situated on the surface, ITAR-TASS said. Work at the site of the explosion has been halted two weeks ago after experts

warned of imminent dangers, it added.

According to Interfax, rescuers managed to save 66 of the 81 miners who were in the shaft at the time of the accident. Those killed were in a cage that takes workers below the surface, Interfax said.

Russia's coal industry is plagued by accidents and problems related to poor

work conditions and non-payment of wages.

On Monday, more than two dozen miners at Gukovo in the southern Russian region of Rostov began a hunger strike to demand that the government pay them back wages amounting to at least 27 billion rubles, ITAR-TASS said.

## Chechnya arms merry go-round makes mockery of disarmament

SOUTHERN CHECHNYA (AP) - Russia claims to be disarming the Chechen rebels, but for customers checking out new assault rifles at this open-air arms market, the policy is a joke.

"You won't find any jets or helicopters here, but we can get you a T-80 tank or an armoured personnel carrier," grinned Alid, organiser of the market in a southern Chechen town, which he asked remain anonymous.

In the middle of a busy marketplace that also sold everything from horses to washing powder, about 50 men stood around examining the latest products: shoulder-held rocket launchers, heavy machineguns, automatic rifles, pistols, a sniper rifle.

The dealers, mostly stocky men with short hair cuts, displayed their weapons at a spot about one kilometre from a road frequently used by Russian soldiers.

Under an accord signed a month ago to demilitarise the devastated Caucasus republic, Chechens are to give up their weapons to the

Russians in exchange for cash.

The Russians are to destroy the surrendered weapons and withdraw nearly all their troops from Chechnya.

In the meantime, carrying weapons is strictly forbidden and Russian troops inspect cars at checkpoints all over the republic.

So far about 1,000 weapons have been handed in, Russian officials said.

Moscow says this is not nearly enough, but Chechen independence fighters argue that almost no Russian troops have withdrawn.

The dispute is not affecting the arms markets of southern Chechnya. In fact, business is roaring, with gunmen using the cash paid by the Russians for surrendered rifles to buy better guns at the market.

"The automatic rifles that are given in to the Russians are generally old and worn out but they still give you 190 (U.S.) dollars," said 47-year-old Alid, who would not give his second name.

"Here, you can get an

automatic for \$200 - and you can find a new one at that price," he said.

Ruslan, a young Chechen guerrilla living near the capital Grozny, laughed when asked about the disarmament process. He said his friends were handing in Kalashnikovs that fire a 762-calibre bullet, receiving the \$190 and going to the market and buying the up-to-date .545-calibre rifles.

"We hand over the .762s because there's almost no ammunition left for them. In the market we buy .545s and you can find as much ammunition for them as you want," said Ruslan, who also would not give his last name.

Although weapons are being handed in and Chechnya's borders are sealed by thousands of Russian troops, some prices at the arms markets are barely changed from before the war started in December last year, suggesting a good supply.

At one of the arms markets, a dealer claimed he bought his goods from the

Russian troops. "The Russian generals let us have these, and then we shoot at the Russians with them," he said.

One customer said he would keep carrying weapons until Russian troops left as promised. Alid, whose personal weapon was a sawn-off pump action Winchester shotgun, said Russia would never be able to disarm Chechnya peacefully.

"There's no going back to those days. Look at what they did to us in '44," he said. In 1944, Stalin tried to wipe Chechnya off the map by deporting every man, woman and child to Central Asia.

"They won't be able to do this again," Alid said. "Weapons are our national costume," added a customer.

Everybody's attention was suddenly diverted. A car with black-tinted windows had pulled up and a man with a beard and a shaved head was opening the boot. Inside: a dozen anti-tank rockets.

## India: Kashmir hostage talks progress

SRINAGAR, India, (R) - Indian authorities said Tuesday that negotiations with separatist guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir were progressing and they still hoped to win the release of the tourists.

"Things are moving," said K.B. Jandial, a spokesman for the government of Jammu and Kashmir state. "We are working towards a positive development."

He denied newspaper reports that talks with Al-Faran militants had broken down, saying officials had contacted an unidentified intermediary Monday for a fresh round of discussions.

"Since yesterday there has been a lot of speculation that contact was snapped," Mr. Jandial said. "But contact is still on."

He said that while talks were progressing, there had been no major development in the hostage ordeal, which entered its third month Monday. "There is no breakthrough yet," he said.

Asked to comment on the tone of Monday's talks, he said: "It was OK, not bad." American Donald Hutebings, German Dirk Hasert

and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were kidnapped while trekking in the mountains of southern Kashmir in early July.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostre, was found headed on Aug. 13.

A note found near his body quoted Al-Faran as threatening to kill the other hostages unless the government met its demands for the release of 15 jailed militants within two days.

That deadline passed with no apparent harm to the hostages.

India has refused to release three Pakistani militants as Al-Faran demanded but said some separatists could be freed in the course of the regular review of their standing.

New Delhi has all but ruled out a raid to rescue the four captive tourists, saying it would imperil their lives because of the inhospitable Himalayan terrain.

Meanwhile, Kashmir's deadliest bomb attack since the start of a five-year-old separatist revolt reflected a change of tactics by militants who are increasingly

opting for heavy explosives. officials and separatists said Tuesday.

At least 13 people were killed Monday when Kashmir separatists detonated a powerful device in a bold attack in the centre of Srinagar, the heavily fortified summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Hizb-UI-Mujahideen, one of the most powerfully armed guerrilla groups among dozens operating in Kashmir, claimed responsibility for the explosion, which came seconds after a grenade attack at the same spot.

The group, which wants the two thirds of Kashmir ruled by India to accede to neighbouring Pakistan which controls most of the rest, said it targeted security forces with a mine planted in a military vehicle with the help of soldiers.

Government officials said late Monday that the device was planted underneath parked vehicles.

Security forces were withdrawing monthly pay from a state bank when the blast occurred, sending shrapnel through metal storefronts

and destroyed five cars and several scooters. About half the victims were civilians.

The explosion was the third in four days in the same area of downtown Srinagar. The two others involved smaller bombs, apparently connected to timing mechanisms, which were detected by local shopkeepers in time to cordon off the neighbourhood and prevent serious injury.

"This is part of the new strategy of Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) to use more explosives," said an official with the government of Jammu and Kashmir state who asked not to be identified.

Monday's explosion was the deadliest since the outset of the separatist rebellion in which police and hospitals say at least 20,000 people have died. A scooter bomb went off near the same spot in October 1992, killing two people.

Many Kashmiris have grown used to crossfire between militants and security forces which include several hundred thousand soldiers and paramilitary troops.



## Jordan Times

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## New era for RJ

OUR NATIONAL airline, Royal Jordanian (RJ) has been debt ridden for too long. No matter how profitable its operations worldwide are, it will remain in the red after it deducts some \$42 million annually to service its internal and external debts. This amount eats up most of the revenues of RJ and undermines all its attempts to stand on its own feet.

In order to alleviate the problem, the RJ privatisation committee has recently submitted to the government several recommendations.

The rescue plan envisaged calls for, inter alia, increasing the airline's capital and repaying its internal debts (to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and the Social Security Corporation) by the government.

While we understand that the government may have its own ideas about ways to solve the problem, and its own perceptions of the cumulative effect that has put the airline in the dire condition it now finds itself, we all must recognise the fact that RJ has to be supported if it is to continue serving the country's strategic interests.

We are now entering a new era of peace in the Middle East, when tourism and travel are expected to contribute heavily to our economic development. RJ thus cannot be expected to perform this task without earmarking additional funds for modernising its ageing fleet and expanding it to the extent necessary.

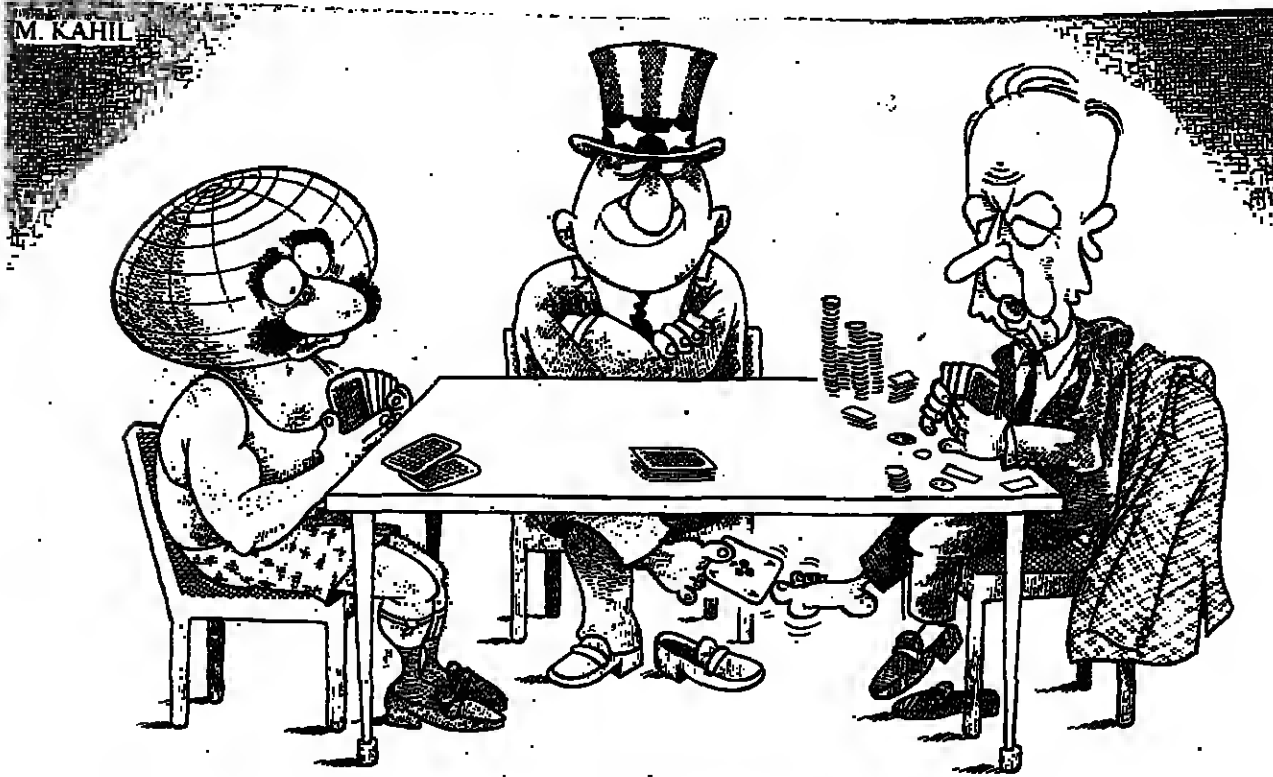
This is certainly one aspect of the problem facing the airline. The other dimension has to do with the steps RJ has to take in order to further improve itself from within. Accordingly, while there is unanimity on the point that the airline as currently constituted is undercapitalised and needs urgent financial transfusions, it has to be understood that "outside" help would simply not be enough without a parallel structural change within the airline. The management is therefore called upon to improve productivity more than they have already, cut costs beyond what it has done, without compromising the quality of services offered, and enhance its marketing policies even further. If such efforts require additional reviews of its routing policies, then so be it. This is something that RJ has got to do as a quid pro quo for any governmental intervention.

The two tracks in which the rescue plan has to be tried have to be well coordinated and synchronised. Obviously there is no magic wand with which to attain these objectives. The best that can be done is for the concerned authorities to sit together with RJ's chief executives to draw up a plan of action that would ensure the airline's continued viability and success.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday expressed the view that the Arab-Israeli peace process is almost dead on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Mohammad Karroub said that the deadlock is caused by Israel's intransigent position because it refuses to pull out from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Damascus. But, he said, the deadlock is bound to serve the Labour Party and the Rabin government in the 1996 parliamentary elections, because it shows that the Labour government is not interested in giving up occupied land and will not evict the settlers from the Syrian heights, much to the satisfaction of most Israelis. The writer said that the present deadlock, coupled with indifference to the situation on the part of the United States, which is supposed to play the full partner's role in the settlement, is further strengthening the Israeli government's position and proving that the peace process with Syria is dead at least for the time being. For its part, Syria seems disinterested in any settlement with Israel that does not lead to a full withdrawal from the Golan.

COMMENTING ON declared plans by the government to hold cabinet meetings in different governorates to meet the local residents, a writer in Al Dustour said that there was no justification or need for such a move. Mohammad Daoud said that the government, which had adopted the concept of decentralisation, should give the local governors sufficient power to deal with the various local issues. The fact that each governorate has its own parliament members and are all involved in one way or another in some of the political parties prompts one to wonder about the wisdom in the government's decision to hold sessions outside the capital since, said the writer, the representatives of the local population can best convey the requests of the local residents to the central government. In addition, said the writer, it is not possible for the cabinet members to deal with working papers and handle issues in one session held in the governorates no matter how long the session might be.



## Washington Watch

# The broken politics of perception

By Dr. James Zogby

THE AMERICAN political landscape is in some disarray. Developments in the past few weeks have focused attention on the deep discord that exists in both political parties, and serious problems that plague American culture as we approach the 1996 elections.

That presidential politics has become a game of creating perceptions was in evidence at the recent meeting of the Iowa state Republican Party. Since Iowa will be the first state to hold presidential nominating campaigns in 1996, all of the nine Republican candidates have spent significant time and money there.

While the actual Iowa elections will not take place until next February, the state party organisation sought to raise money by organising a late summer "straw poll." It was to be a fun event bringing the candidates together with their supporters to make speeches and then, for all in attendance to informally vote for their favourite candidate.

But given the intense competition among the nine Republican hopefuls, and the media attention focused on the Iowa event, it became anything but fun. Since there were no rules to govern the affair — a \$25 fee was the only requirement for participation — each of the candidates saw the meeting as a chance to out-organise and embarrass his opponents.

With Senator Bob Dole expected to win in Iowa (because he comes from the neighbouring state of Kansas and is frequently referred to as "Iowa's third senator"), his closest challengers, Texas Senator Phil Gramm and CNN commentator Pat Buchanan, made a determined effort to bring supporters to the state party meeting.

Mr. Buchanan, a favourite among Iowa's re-

ligious right wing, worked tirelessly to round up supporters and buy them tickets to attend. Mr. Gramm, not to be outdone, spent as much as \$500,000 to bring supporters not only from Iowa but also from Illinois, Nebraska and Texas to vote for him.

Mr. Dole's organisation also worked hard and bought what they hoped were enough tickets for their supporters to bring him a comfortable margin of victory when the straw vote took place at the meeting.

When the final tally was announced, the Gramm effort had produced a tie with Mr. Dole, and Mr. Buchanan came third.

The event, of course, was meaningless in real terms. One commentator called it "a bizarre vote-buying bazaar," while another correctly framed it as a "rigged election."

But Mr. Gramm strongly championed the vote as a "referendum" on Mr. Dole and argued, even though he had radically outspent his fellow senator, the results represented a Gramm victory and a Dole defeat. Enough media outlets played the story Mr. Gramm's way, projecting him as an organisational winner, that the event became "proof" that Mr. Dole was no longer invulnerable. Some went so far as to speculate that Mr. Dole, now that he was "heaten" was a weakened candidate who had always had "paper-thin" support.

Since politics is so much about perception and perception is largely a media-created reality, the meaningless Iowa event took on a life of its own and began to create its own reality. A week after the event, "Dole Loses," "Gramm Wins" and "Dole Weakened in Iowa" stories proliferated across the country. A national poll showed Mr. Dole's support

slipping by 15 per cent — from 51 per cent to 36 per cent in the Republican campaign for president.

This ability of some political efforts to manipulate media with smart money and organising and shaping a story to create political realities had been on display a week earlier at a major event sponsored and paid for by Texas billionaire and 1992 presidential candidate Ross Perot.

Mr. Perot, who literally bought himself a presidential campaign in 1992, appears to be at it again for 1996. Knowing the wisdom of the adage "if you've got something to sell there will always be someone to buy," Mr. Perot is willing to spend millions to sell himself. He knows there are millions of Americans sufficiently disaffected by American politics to willingly identify themselves with his protest effort.

While the Perot event was billed as an issue forum "to debate the serious issues facing America," the real purpose of the event was to show that Ross Perot is a political power.

Mr. Perot drew 19 per cent of the vote in 1992, but has failed to produce his promised United We Stand America (UWSA) political organisation as a permanent third force in American politics. In most states, UWSA is a faction-driven group of a small handful of voters. In other states, it is merely an office taken over by Mr. Perot himself. In his quest to be seen as the arbiter of the independent voters in America, Mr. Perot continues to use money and the media to keep the spotlight on himself.

Afraid of being left behind, the politicians in the Republican Party followed his lead. (The Clinton Administration too, sent representatives to attend.) All nine of the Republican hopefuls attended the Mr. Perot event, reinforcing the media perception that

when Mr. Perot, on behalf of "the people," beckons, politicians will respond.

The lasting story of the event was not the Republican candidates and their speeches (although some commentators did note Mr. Dole's weak performance and Mr. Buchanan's crowd stirring rhetoric); it was the power of Ross Perot and his possible 1996 political candidacy.

On another level, the perception game being played out by the growing number of political figures heing is touted by the media as possible independent presidential candidates in 1996. There has been a long press romance with former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell. Gen. Powell continues to be coy about his interests. He never acknowledges a desire to run, nor does he explicitly rule out the possibility of running. As a result, speculation abounds. He has been on the cover of major magazines and regularly featured in most news outlets. His audiences grow, as do prospective sales of his autobiography due to be on sale this fall.

Playing the same game is New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley. Announcing last week that he will not run for reelection to the Senate in 1996, he criticised the current state of the American political system, and vaguely hinted that he still has political ambition. That was all that the press needed to conclude the possibility of an independent run for the presidency next year by Mr. Bradley or — even more far-fetched but tantalizing — a Powell-Bradley independent campaign. Stories have been taken, polls have been written and, once again, perceptions have begun to take on the appearance of political reality.

Mr. Bradley's criticism of American politics is correct, to some degree. But

unless the senator alters his course, he may become, like other critics before him, a practitioner of some of the same evils he has identified in the system.

Clearly, there is a popular desire for reform in American politics. But in recent years too many politicians have attached themselves to that desire for change, only to manipulate it for their own advancement. Instead of emphasising the development of grass-roots based political parties, the political process has come to be dominated by money and media-centred personality cults.

Despite their enormous potential to produce lasting and genuine change in the structure of American politics, these individual-led efforts of the past decade have failed, leaving only memories of past glory and a betrayed and embittered constituency.

For all that I disagree with the fundamentalist Christian right wing, it is important to note that they are the only example of a real political movement for change in the past decade. Instead of merely being the vehicle for the advancement of the personality cult of Pat Robertson (out of whose 1988 presidential campaign this movement grew), the movement sunk its roots into the Republican party at the grass-roots level. It recruited and organised hundreds of thousands of members within the party structure and today fully controls one-third of the Republican party in the U.S.

The same cannot be said of the past efforts of Jerry Brown, Paul Tsongas or Ross Perot — all of whom left nothing in their wake but themselves and their ideas. In each case what initially moved these efforts was media perception, just as media perception sustained them, and it was the same media perception that ultimately toppled them.

## America once again assumes the lead in Europe

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The humiliation of Europe in what may prove the Yugoslav endgame has yet to be fully appreciated in Europe's capitals. Reproached for their four-year failure to find a coherent and effective common policy, officials and politicians in London, Paris and Bonn still answer as if the last four years have taught them nothing. They act as if what has happened this week has no lessons for them.

"Yes," they say, "we really must have a common European foreign policy." If the European Union (EU) did not have a common policy before the Yugoslav war, and doesn't have one now, after four years of crisis, how can anyone think that it is going to have one in the future?

The United States has taken over the Yugoslav affair, made things happen and has a plan, while Richard Holbrooke has been in Europe to promote, to bring the war to an end.

It would do so either through negotiations while the Bosnian Serbs are

under duress or, failing that, by arming and protecting the Bosnian government, providing it with the means to fight for its own interests. The West thereby ceases to be the jailer of the Bosnians and the ratifiers of Serbian conquests.

The application of duress began with American sponsorship of the Croatian, Bosnian Federation, and Washington's implied encouragement to Croatia's military campaign to recover the Krajina. It resumed with Wednesday's bombings and shelling of Bosnian Serbian positions and installations.

French and British policy-by-default, as well as the policy of the European Union's negotiator (at least when Lord Owen occupied that post), has been to press the principal victim of aggression, the Bosnian government, to end the war by giving up. The American plan presses the principal instigator of aggression, Serbia, and its Bosnian Serbian allies, to yield conquered territory.

A French historian of Yugoslavia, Paul Garde, has just published a de-

mand on the new French government that, while it has been overtaken by this week's NATO-U.N. action, is worth attention because of its political lesson.

He wants to reverse the programme of Serbian appeasement that was followed during the Mitterrand presidency, and he would even reject the American peace plan because it offers too much to the Serbs.

He asked that Paris use French military force to end Serbian bombardments of security zones and to restore unrestricted access, by normal land and air routes, to Sarajevo and Gorazde.

He added that the repercussions inside Serbia of an aggressive French policy should be welcomed rather than feared.

"Defeats have always provoked discussion, and discussion provokes new defeats," he wrote.

Serbia, Professor Garde says, initiated the war and is the principal source of trouble in the Balkans: "It is the durable obstacle to the Balkan Peninsula's integration into Europe."

To "play the Milosevic

card" — as the West has been doing, and as the United States does by continuing to make the Serbian president its privileged interlocutor — has the effect of "reunifying the Serbian camp around a single chief," and will, he argues, perpetuate conflict.

If this had been France's policy in 1991 — or that of the United States — the war might have been stopped at the start. One government determined to block or punish military aggression in 1991, if only by arming and supporting the victims, could have changed everything.

Instead there was a vain search for European and international agreement on what, collectively, to do, ending in the hapless dispatch of humanitarian aid and unwanted mediators.

Appasement "added war to war," to employ Francois Mitterrand's phrase.

Appasement, of aggression and adventure is all but inevitable when you insist, in a situation like this, on obtaining unanimous agreement from 12,15 or even more different governments. Current events

again demonstrate that decisive action is possible only when there is a leader prepared to define the problem and take the initiative and responsibility, allowing others to follow if they want.

The United States today is again Europe's leader; there is no other. Both the Bush and Clinton administrations tried, and failed, to convince the European governments to take over Europe's leadership.

However, the Holbrooke plan does not mean that the United States now is back, prepared to resume its old role in Europe. It is back because Bosnia has become an internal American political issue and a presidential election approaches. Mr. Clinton and his people need this war out of the way.

If that can be accomplished, the United States will turn back towards its own problems, which are considerable. Europe, once again, will be left adrift, in a situation like this, on obtaining unanimous agreement from 12,15 or even more different governments. Current events

Los Angeles Times

It Occured to Me  
By Ali Kassay

## TO BE AN ARAB

NOT SO long ago, the Jordan Times published a feature on the confusion surrounding the Eritrean Community in Jordan, whether they are Arabs or not. For the benefit of those readers guilty of not reading this paragon of sober reporting and astute analysis as diligently as they should, below is a recap of the controversy.

Eritreans are a Hameto-Semitic people who speak several languages of their own, including Tigre, Tigranya, Beja, Bilein, Saho, and Afar. The first two derive from the classic Ge'ez, one of the three principal living Semitic languages. At the same time, some Eritreans descend from Arab roots. Although Arabic is not an indigenous tongue, it has become, through the effects of the Koran, immigration, and commerce, one of the two most widely spoken languages, along with Tigranya.

If ethnicity and language have not confused the question to the point of distraction, politics intervened to muddle the issue further. In the fifties and sixties Ethiopia maintained close relations with Israel. In response, Arabs supported the Eritrean struggle for independence. In the seventies and early eighties, Arabs became so rich that many Third World nations sought to join their ranks. Among the applicants was one of the liberation fronts of Eritrea; but its application remained indefinitely at the committee stage.

Two possible explanations present themselves: One, the league is a voluntary association of sovereign states, and the Eritrean front did not constitute a sovereign state, quite unlike the PLO, for instance. The second was perhaps the Arab League's devotion to the cause of unity. All members of the League, it is well known; sincerely share an ardent eagerness to unite, matched only by their reluctance to take any steps towards that goal. Consequently, that august organisation could not set the precedent of overtly supporting a secessionist movement.

When Asmara, the capital, was finally liberated and Eritrea became independent, new political realities kept the decision on that country's Arab credentials at a comfortable distance from the top of the agenda: Arabs were not so rich any more, and joining them was no longer attractive for Eritreans. Arabs, for their part, were too preoccupied with the Gulf Crisis to deal with Eritrea. Since then, no one has felt any urgency to address the question. Political archives can be like soup in a good-value-for-money restaurant: It is better not to stir them.

So, one might ask, why waste valuable column space discussing the matter? Because this confusion constantly creates problems for Eritreans in Jordan. Recently, a member of this community went to a government department to clear some papers. The civil servants were surprised that he, an Arab, did not proudly speak the noble tongue of his race. When he explained that Eritreans are not Arabs, since they do not benefit by the same treatment concerning visas, residence permits, and work permits as other Arab expatriates living in Jordan, the officials were neither rude nor hostile (perish the thought that Jordanian civil servants should ever be) but they were clearly vexed and wounded. Perhaps some clarity would not be amiss.



Occured to Me  
By Ali Kassay

TO BE AN  
ARAB

# Good for women, not bad for China

The West has been using this week's U.N. conference in Beijing for some dubious moralising

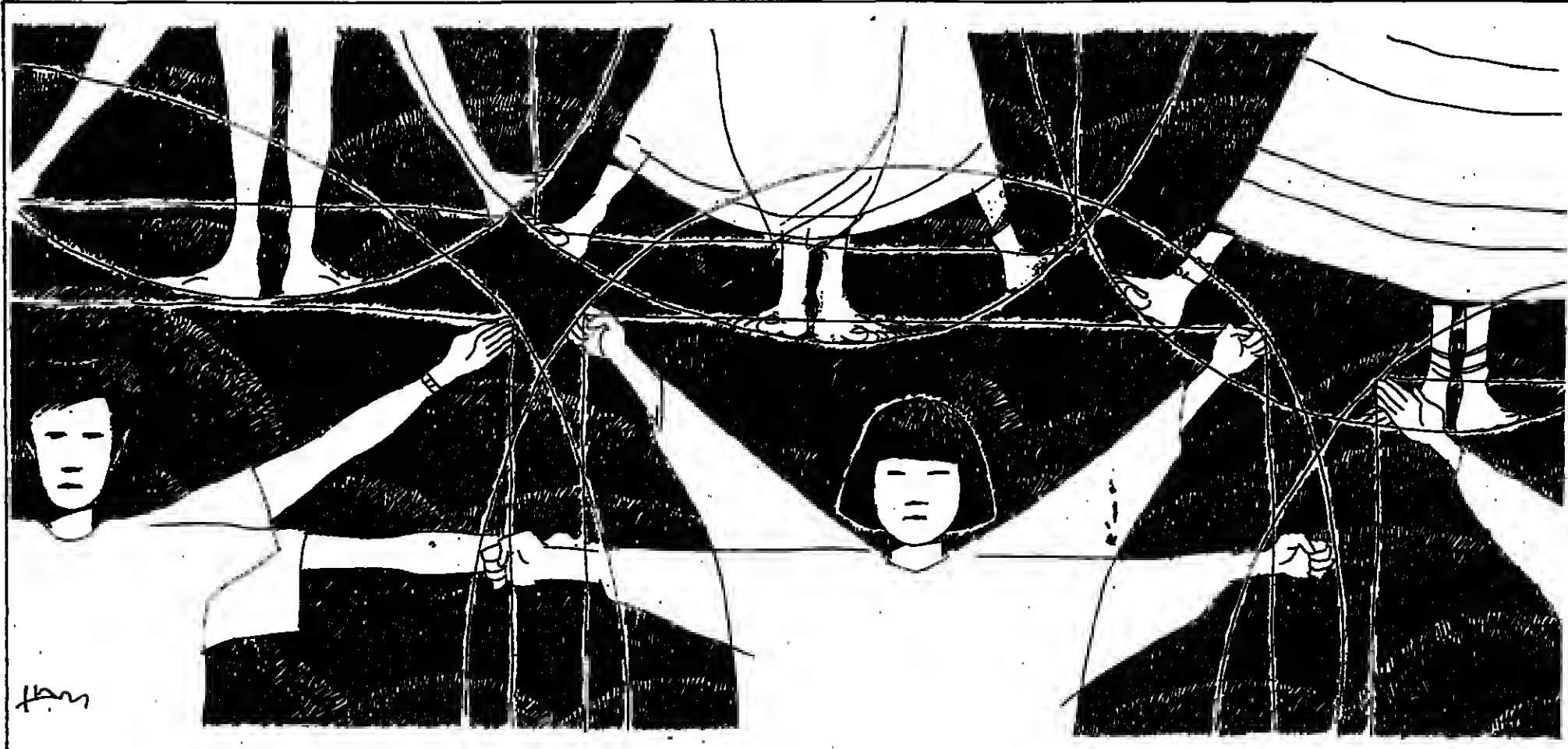
By Germaine Greer

THE STAGING in Beijing of the Fourth U.N. Global Conference on Women seems doomed to result in an absurd débauché. The "bad and ragged" U.N. has not been congratulated for anything that anyone can remember; women still cannot get themselves taken seriously, and the People's Republic of China has taken over the role of the world's most hated nation.

In the Seventies, when population panic was taught in schools, draconian Chinese legislation was greeted with enthusiasm; everybody was relieved that the Chinese, too, wanted fewer Chinese and were prepared to trample roughshod over human rights to get them.

To some observers it was obvious that the imposition of a one-child rule upon a peasant population that had barely emerged from a system in which women had been the property of men, who had the power to treat them as slaves, to starve, beat and even kill them, would lead to appalling abuses. Historically, peasant populations have led lives nasty, brutal and short, their only hope centred on having sons to carry on the line, to till the soil and lie beneath. In China, where farmers are still often buried on their own land, the continuum concept was even more important than it was in Europe. Only a totalitarian government could have obliterated at a stroke the Chinese peasant's reason for living.

Dynasty having been abolished, the rural worker toiled for the advancement of his community; when the struggle was against famine, victory was obvious and rewarding. With the liberalisation of agriculture and the stirrings of a free market mentality, the rural worker is once again dreaming big old dream. By enforcing population control by a variety of pressures exerted with varying degrees of ferocity at commune level, the Chinese have reduced their population growth to less than 1.4 per cent a year, an astonishing achievement, but still not enough for the bishop who contributed his thought for the day to Radio 4 on Saturday. The very thought that a quarter of the world's population is Chinese seemed to fill this good gentleman with unease. If he wanted to illustrate runaway population growth, China was the worst example he could have chosen and yet he chose it. The disease of the millennium looks like being Sinophobia and the U.N.



Conference on Women its first casualty.

In vain the organisers repeat that this is not a conference on China, but a women's conference taking place in China simply because an Asian venue had been decided upon after Mexico City and Nairobi, and the Chinese made the only offer.

Why they offered it is a bit of a mystery; some say they confidently expected the millennium Olympic Games and the conference would have been a warm-up. What is clear now is that the Chinese authorities are appalled at what they have brought upon themselves. This is the biggest-ever U.N. conference in the official conference, not counting the Forum for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and the mob of accompanying media.

The Chinese are clearly anxious to avoid actual physical unpleasantness and to accommodate their visitors in a style they find acceptable; both are tall orders. The endless demands for visas and accreditation have resulted in stonewalling and delays as the Chinese struggle to keep an uncontrollable situation under control.

In the run-up to the conference the Chinese have received serve after serve of critical media attention. In May the totally unrealistic suggestion was made that the U.N. might have to

seek another venue for the conference because the Chinese had moved the NGO Forum to Huairou. The Chinese said that the original building, the Workers' Stadium, had developed defects that rendered it unsafe; nobody believed them. The move was interpreted as an attempt drastically to limit NGO access to the conference. As the U.K. contingent of NGOs to Beijing comprises more than 50 development agencies there would appear to be some argument for imposing some kind of a limit; in the event, the U.N. refused accreditation to 493 of the 2,000-odd agencies that applied. This, too, is normal, but when China is in question all behaviours become sinister. The NGO Forum is less distance from the conference in Beijing than it was in Rio, where no fuss was made at all.

Throughout June, as the anniversary of Tiananmen approached, the Chinese accumulated bad publicity by arresting prominent dissidents. The announcement of the new Chinese Law on Maternal and Infant Care, which requires carriers of genetic disorders to undergo sterilisation as a condition of receiving permission to marry was greeted in the West with outcry. The West did not strain at swallowing the camel of the one-child rule, which limited everybody's reproductive rights, but it gags on the gnaw of

limiting the reproductive rights of carriers of genetic disorder. The birth of a damaged child in China, usually results in permission to try again, but in communes in which this will not be forthcoming the pressure to abandon or do away with the child must be all but irresistible.

What the central government has to consider is that upon the healthy children will fall the burden of the care of all the non-productive members of the community. The spectre that can be glimpsed behind social welfare legislation in China is the spectre of the famine that used to be endemic; in the coming crunch the younger population may not be able to feed the longer-lived older generation. When freed from hunger in menaced, the other freedoms tend to matter less.

China is not the only country in which the birth of a girl child is viewed as a disaster by women as well as men. The U.N. has long been aware of and has discussed the problem of millions of disappearing girl children in India and Pakistan, which is not caused by anything as obvious as infanticide, but by what could be called 'differential care'. When a girl child falls ill, her parents are not motivated to walk the many miles to the clinic or pay, with hard-earned cash for medicine. If she does not eat, they will not beggar

themselves to find something she will swallow. She will die of illnesses that her brother will survive.

This is not just a question of human rights or economics but of a cultural system developed out of centuries of hardship. Governments can try to raise the status of women by criminalising dowry and bride-price, female circumcision, prostitution, slavery and murder, but ultimately women must bring about the changes themselves. The World Conference is of value not to China or the U.N., who have merely furnished the occasion, but to the women who will be there and the women who sent them.

The Chinese have only one way of dealing with Western vociferations about their own problems and that is to ignore them, but the chorus has grown so loud that the Chinese could be understood to be feeling something rather like despair. In July they succeeded in getting human rights campaigner Harry Wu to confess that he had made untrue accusations, with the result that U.S. congressmen demanded sanctions against China. Though other observers question some of Mr. Wu's facts, for example that there are 20 million people in prison camps in China, the Chinese attempt to right the record — by arresting him for violations of im-

migration law, and televising him as he commented on TV films based on his information — only succeeded in convicting the Chinese of duress and persecution.

By the beginning of August, the U.S. Senate was urging a boycott of the Conference on Women, using the U.N. event quite improperly as a way of exerting pressure on the Chinese. (Nobody suggested that the U.S. would boycott Rio if the Brazilians did not begin to take environmental issues seriously.) The way out was found by sentencing Mr. Wu to 15 years' imprisonment and deportation, and deporting him at once so that Hillary Clinton could go to the conference after all. It was reported, unnecessarily, that she would have no contact with Chinese government officials.

In England, anti-Chinese uproar was triggered by the transmission of a Channel 4 documentary called *The Dying Rooms*, which purported to portray the plight of around one million abandoned children a year in China. That the orphanage sequences were genuine I would not dispute, but, population policy being both different and differently applied in different regions, the prevalence of such abuses is difficult to estimate. As I travelled a year ago from Xinjiang, where I saw families of four

and five children, eastwards towards Shanghai, where the one-child rule is rigorously enforced, I was told repeatedly that in China 115 boys were born for every 100 girls. Everyone seemed concerned that "there are already 50 million surplus males in China."

Western observers have estimated the shortfall of females anywhere between 15 and 60 million; any such figures must be guesses. What I was hearing from the Chinese was probably the result of a government propaganda campaign to counteract the pronounced preference for male children. The new version is filled with concern for the millions of men who will never find a wife and never have sons of their own. No government wants 15 or 50 million unattached males roaming its streets.

The response to *The Dying Rooms* was an orgy of self-righteous Sinophobia; the *London Evening Standard*, which does not usually trouble itself about Asia or women's rights but is greatly interested in television, rang me to ask for a piece condemning China as the venue for the World Conference on Women. As an old U.N. hand who has been tearing her hair for 30 years over the hypocrisy, muddle and compromise that is all that the U.N. can ever manage, I declined. The piece eventually writ-

ten by Suzanne Moore bore the headline, "How can women justify this junket to China?", which neatly encapsulated the *Evening Standard's* threefold aim of sneering at the U.N., ridiculing women and insulting China.

Moore argued that "those things which cannot be said there look like being far more important than what it will be permissible to debate": in fact, the Chinese authorities will have no power to muzzle the conference or the forum once they have convened. Getting the floor at either conference or forum is easy; as a veteran of such conferences I have yet to witness anyone silenced or ejected — but I have had to listen courteously to the likes of Mrs. Marcos and Princess Ashraf pretending to be concerned for the world's women.

Traditionally the Women's Conferences are vehicles for the bedmates of the men in power. The U.N., which seldom gets any closer to heads of state, falls panting into the arms of their wives and concubines. Most of the government delegates to Beijing justify their country's performance vis-à-vis women, and the courtesies of the situation demand that the other delegates do not fall about laughing or howl in derision.

Both U.N. officials and the Chinese fear that the Conference on Women will be turned into a conference on China. In fact there is a good deal of overlap between the Platform for Action to be agreed by the conference and the issues to be discussed at the forum. As neither conference nor forum has any power of enforcement, the Platform for Action is actually a collection of guidelines; the U.N. can only say "governments should" and never "government must". Some governments have still to ratify the Women's Convention of 1975.

Yet it is no more true to say that Beijing will be a non-event than it would be to say that the sell-out stonking and cheering *What Women Want* Concert at the Festival Hall on Saturday was a non-event. Though scented hackeries may earn good money for reviling the organisers of both in the name of their own brand of filter-tipped feminism, they have missed the point. For the 60,000-odd women who will be there, Beijing will be a blast. And it won't do the Chinese any harm either.

The Independent.

## Trouble brewing in UNRWA

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Manasrah urged the Jordanian government, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and public opinion, which contributed to prompting UNRWA reverse its decision to shut down the faculty, to mobilise "to get the agency to cancel my dismissal."

On Sunday UNRWA postponed for one year a move to suspend new enrolment at the faculty. Mr. Turkmen said the decision was reached "with the understanding that (the government and the PNA) will convince the donor countries to provide the necessary financial re-

sources for an adequate financing of the faculty in the future."

A reversal of the decision to shut down the college, which outraged UNRWA workers, was part of the demands that were to be raised in a strike that the agency's employees planned to stage Monday.

However, the strike was frozen pending the outcome of talks employees' representatives plan to hold with Mr. Turkmen, who is expected here on Sept. 15, UNRWA sources said.

The strike was also to press demands for better health, education and so-

cial services as well as improved terms for end-of-service compensation and salary increases compatible with the rising cost of living.

A senior source in the UNRWA labour committee criticised the decision to dismiss Dr. Manasrah.

The source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, lashed out at what he called the "lack of democratic practices at UNRWA's upper echelons of power."

The source asserted that decisions were taken without consulting with the labour committees that represents 6,000 UNRWA employees in Jordan.

"The decision to dismiss

me clean contradicts UNRWA's endorsement of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that guarantees the freedom of expression," said the source.

The source also said the labour committees will take all measures to reinstate the dean.

He said that the labour committee sent a cable to Mr. Turkmen condemning the termination of the dean's services.

Representatives of the refugee camps in Jordan Sunday sent Mr. Turkmen a letter urging him not to take any action against Dr. Manasrah, saying his protest against the closure of the college was urged by his concern for the well-being of refugees.

## Human rights loom into focus

(Continued from page 1)

delegates were splitting into working groups on the conference's proposed platform.

The document, to be debated over the next 10 days, calls for steps to alleviate women's poverty and improve health care, education and job opportunities for women.

In the opening salvo of what is expected to be a major battle, Vatican delegation head Mary Ann Glendon said promoting women's aspirations should not come at the expense of "undermining their roles within the family."

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, too, said she hoped to see more in the comment about the traditional family.

"The more close-knit the family is, the more close-knit society itself will be," she said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Britain's Baroness Chalker, minister of state for foreign affairs, warned the gathering of representatives from 181 countries not to go back on commitments to which they signed at the international conference on population and development, held in Cairo last year.

"We committed ourselves at Cairo to the advancement and empowerment of women, the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and women's right to control their fertility," Ms. Chalker said.

"We must endorse these commitments here at the World Conference on Women. These cannot be re-

negotiated now."

Those countries opposing the liberals, diplomats said, are a loose alliance of conservatives that have placed the Vatican in the same camp as the Islamic Republic of Iran, and include ardently pro-Roman Catholic and Muslim states.

The conservatives are united in their objections to liberal wording in the main document of the conference on such issues as access to birth control and abortion. The Muslim states, meanwhile, are also concerned about its insistence on women's equality, saying that the interpretation may conflict with Islamic law.

None of the main conservative protagonists had spoken on Monday, although most of the tough debating is likely to go on in committees, out of public view, diplomats said.

The speech by the Vatican's representative expressed no open opposition to abortion, other than to assail it as a "tragic" event, and stressed instead the values of motherhood and family and male responsibility.

Another trouble spot is money, with the world's poorer nations making a familiar clamour for help from wealthier states to set vital programmes for women, such as health and education, in motion.

"The reality is that many of the states in the developing world will require supplementary resources to help their people help themselves," said Philippine Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, speaking for a loose group of 132 developing countries.

## Libya: Palestinians welcome expulsion

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya said on Tuesday Palestinians in the Libyan city of Benghazi welcomed the Libyan decision to send them back to their homeland.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which runs the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho have condemned the expulsions and individual Palestinians have also complained of the disruption to their lives and the treatment they receive on the journey.

But the official Libyan news agency IANA quoted a message to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi from the Palestinian community in Benghazi as saying they fully supported him.

Colonel Qadhafi said on Saturday that the idea of sending the Palestinians home was to expose the failure of the self-rule agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

The message to Col. Qadhafi, for which IANA mentioned no signatories,

said: "We support a mass return to Palestine, not just to expose capitulationist solutions but also to fan the flames of popular revolution."

"We declare we are fully prepared to carry out all the programmes you see fit as a way to go back to our homeland. We are your loyal disciples."

Palestinian officials said on Sunday that 450 expelled Palestinians had been stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border for the past 10 days. Libya and Egypt have not commented.

It was not known how many Palestinians live in Benghazi, which is on the Mediterranean coast east of the capital Tripoli, or whether they were among those Col. Qadhafi threatened to expel Friday.

In September, Col. Qadhafi said he would throw out Palestinians and then expelled a few hundred in December. An undisclosed number were deported last month.

## Syria says pessimism justified

(Continued from page 1)

negotiations between the two countries.

In a possible sign of redoubled American efforts to spur the talks, meanwhile, Israel's Channel Two TV reported Monday that the United States is proposing March 1996 as a target date for reaching agreement.

To date, Israel and Syria have avoided setting formal

target dates in their four negotiations. But U.S. officials have said it was essential to reach agreement by the end of 1995.

Israeli government officials could not confirm the report. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters the Israeli-Syrian peace talks appear "more cloudy than before."

## NATO resumes air strikes

(Continued from page 1)

ters in Pale, six on nearby Mount Jahorina, six more around the suburb of Hadzici southwest of Sarajevo, and one at Hresa, just northeast of Sarajevo.

It did not say what was attacked, but claimed that there was extensive damage and civilian casualties. There was no confirmation of the claims.

The attack ended a tense standoff following the expiration of a NATO-U.N. deadline for the Serbs to move about 300 artillery pieces, tanks and other heavy weapons more than 20 kilometres outside of Sarajevo.

Before and for hours after the deadline, U.N. officials said the Serbs could be seen gathering weapons in some

areas. But they said the movement was insufficient.

"Our patience is really running thin," U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivankov said in Sarajevo just a couple of hours before the strike.

A statement from NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said the movements of Bosnian Serb weaponry "were insignificant, and therefore judged that the Bosnian Serbs had failed to comply."

"We hope that this operation will make clear to the Bosnian Serbs the futility of further military activity," Dr. Claes said.

NATO warplanes roared over Sarajevo almost constantly overnight, but the top U.N. official in ex-Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said bad weather had hampered efforts to monitor the

Serbs. The weather cleared Tuesday, allowing officials to gauge Serb compliance.

"We have no reports so far that any Serb heavy weapons actually left the exclusion zone," said U.N. spokesman Myriam Sochacki in Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb military commander General Ratko Mladic late Monday refused to remove his guns. But Ms. Sochacki said weapons were being assembled at four Sarajevo suburbs or neighbourhoods held by the Serbs — Ilidza, Hadzici, Grhavica, and Lukavica.

It was possible that the Serbs were only moving their weapons to areas with a large civilian population to deter NATO attacks, Ms. Sochacki said.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic accused the Serbs of planning to "drive heavy guns and tanks around

in circles, hide some of them to residential areas, hide some of them in woods and wait for the momentum to be diluted."

Ms. Sochacki said at least 24 heavy weapons — including four tanks, an armoured vehicle and an assortment of mortars and artillery pieces — had been removed from the Serb-held front-line suburb of Lukavica late Monday.

However, Ms. Sochacki said the weapons did not seem to be travelling beyond Toplik, about three kilometres south of Sarajevo.

Earlier, Gen. Mladic, the rebels' military commander, talked tough in a letter received at U.N. headquarters just 3½ hours before the 11 p.m. deadline.

"No one, not even myself, has the right to order the withdrawal," Gen. Mladic wrote. "This is... not in the jurisdiction of generals."



# Economy

## U.S. top, Japan plunges in world competitiveness league

GENEVA (R) — The United States, powered by newly-aggressive industry, is easily the world's most competitive economy, but a vibrant Singapore is hot on its heels, an authoritative study said Tuesday.

With the two leaders pulling away from the rest, Hong Kong comes in third, but Japan has dropped into fourth place due to its economic woes and a general crisis of confidence, according to the annual World Competitiveness Report.

The report, whose assessments are widely used around the globe as a guide for business and investment, is issued by the Lausanne International Institute for Management Development and the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

The gap between a resurgent United States, which recaptured the lead in 1994, and a declining Japan which had previously held the top competitiveness spot for nine years, "is widening even more," the wide-ranging study said.

Switzerland, in fifth place, leads European countries in a league table covering the world's top 48 economies. Included for the first time, China comes in at 34th and Russia is last.

Competitiveness in Asia in general, the report said, was booming with China and India showing tremendous

potential. "The dynamism of East Asia remains staggering," it added with Hong Kong strong and Taiwan surging from 18th to 11th in the table.

Malaysia came in 21st, with South Korea 24th, Thailand 26th, Indonesia 33rd and the Philippines 35th, underlining the report said, "the more difficult task of developing the competitiveness of heavily-populated countries."

Latin America was moving strongly into the competitiveness scene through Chile (20), Argentina (29th), Peru (32nd) and Colombia (36th). But South Africa, the only sub-Saharan African country in the league, dropped from 35th to 42nd place.

Compilers of the study define international competitiveness as the ability of a country "to proportionally generate more wealth than its competitors in world markets" and this year tapped the views of 3,292 top executives around the globe.

The assessments are based on eight factors, from domestic economic strength

through government policies affecting competitiveness to infrastructure and people, or the availability and qualifications of a country's human resources.

Professor Stephane Garelli, director of the project, said the U.S. revival had three prime sources.

These were "strong resilience in the economy thanks to deregulation and privatisation programmes, leadership in new technologies — such as computers, telecommunications, bio-engineering — and services, and strict control on the operating costs of enterprises, in particular labour costs."

Japan's decline, it said, "seems to be socially rather than just economically related, which means that the challenge will lie in the country's ability to reform itself."

Germany ranked sixth, the Netherlands seventh and Denmark ninth in the league. But France stood 17th and Britain 18th while among southern EU members Spain was in 28th position, Italy 30th and Portugal 31st, with Greece a poor 43rd.

## World's poorer countries call for cash for women's programmes

BEIJING (AFP) — The world's poorer countries made an appeal here Tuesday for wealthy states to help fund women's programmes, including a scheme whereby debt would be wiped out in order to finance a project.

"The reality is that many of the states in the developing world will require supplementary resources to help their people help themselves," said Philippine Senator Teticia Ramos-Shahani, speaking for the group at the U.N. World Conference on Women here.

"We call on the industrialised countries to be forthcoming and lead in giving women what has long been due to them," she added.

Among the ideas she outlined was to channel money from "international financial institutions" as well as bilateral and multilateral development agencies to help set up programmes linked with the conference's hoped-for blueprint, a "Platform for Action."

But she added, "the possibility of coming up with schemes such as debt swaps for women's programmes and other innovative schemes must be explored."

The Platform for Action document facing the U.N. conference, which opened in Beijing on Monday, hopes to suggest specific ways in which states can eliminate discrimination against women in terms of the law, their working lives and health and education.

The concept of a similar "debt for nature" swap has been in existence since the late 1980s, in which debts are pardoned in exchange for action to protect the environment, such as reforestation.

But the idea has seen relatively few bidders among creditor countries, some of whom are sceptical about the ability of debtors to manage such programmes effectively.

The Philippines is current chairman of the group, an informal bloc called the Group of 77 and China, which in fact comprises 132

nations.

Finance is likely to be one of the most contentious issues, along with fertility control and the principle of equality for women, being debated among the 181 United Nations states here.

Meanwhile, some 1,000 women from 15 countries Tuesday staged one of the largest demonstrations yet held at the global grassroots forum for women here, demanding an end to racism, sexism and fundamentalism, which victimise women more intensely and impinge on women's rights and freedom, land rights for indigenous and peasant women and a general enhancement of the quality of life," Ms. Maza said.

The caucus blamed the structural adjustment programmes instituted by the two development institutions for the rising incidence of trafficking in women and migrant labour.

Ms. Maza called for an end to the "ruthless imperialism" of the world's people, particularly women.

Gabriela includes an alliance of women's organisations from the Philippines and representatives from Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, Pakistan and the United States.

Ms. Maza, secretary-general of Gabriela, an international alliance of women's organisations which initially convened the caucus.

"We want an end to racism, sexism and fundamentalism, which victimise women more intensely and impinge on women's rights and freedom, land rights for indigenous and peasant women and a general enhancement of the quality of life," Ms. Maza said.

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## Energy minister postpones visit to Iraq

By Sulaiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's energy minister has postponed a scheduled visit to Iraq to discuss building an oil pipeline because ties between the two countries have become tense, industry sources said Tuesday.

The sources said worsening political ties could also affect long-term plans to build an oil refinery at the port of Aqaba which would partly rely on Iraqi oil.

Samir Darwazah was due in Baghdad in late August to meet his Iraqi counterpart but postponed the visit after Jordan gave asylum to two top level Iraqi defectors and King Hussein criticised the Iraqi regime in a televised speech.

Iraq remains Jordan's only oil supplier though Amman is now looking for alternative supplies in case of disruptions. It sends by tanker trucks about 3.2 million tonnes of crude annually and about one million tonnes of derivatives — an equivalent of about 75,000 barrels per day (b/d).

Mr. Darwazah, who visited Baghdad earlier this year, has been discussing with Iraq building a pipeline to carry oil to the Zarqa refinery and slash the \$10 per tonne cost of shipping it by lorry.

Over 2,000 tankers ply the cross-border route every day. But industry officials said the pipeline project was now in question, as are plans for a \$2 billion offshore refinery close to the Red Sea port of

Aqaba.

Though not relying exclusively on Iraqi crude, the project could become less attractive to foreign investors who have based calculations on cheap Iraqi supplies in a post sanctions era.

Jordan has been totally dependent on Iraq for oil since neighbouring Saudi Arabia stopped pumping an estimated 40,000 b/d of crude through the Tapline pipeline in September 1990 to punish Jordan for its pro-Iraqi sympathy during the Gulf crisis.

Washington wants Jordan to stop buying Iraqi oil, one of Baghdad's few sources of income from abroad since sanctions were imposed in 1990.

Diplomats have reported repair work on the Saudi pipeline that use to carry oil to Jordan in the past in recent days but officials from Jordan and Saudi firm ARAMCO have said this is simply part of a routine maintenance programme.

Jordan pays market prices for 25,000 b/d of the crude oil minus \$1 barrel for trucking transportation shouldered by Amman, and for another 25,000 b/d of petroleum products.

The rest of the oil is at undisclosed concessionary terms believed to pay for Jordanian exports.

An estimated \$400 million is deposited every year in an escrow account at Jordan's central bank to pay Jordanian firms for food and medicine trucked to Baghdad under terms approved by the United Nations.

## Arabs to resume talks next week on boosting internal trade

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab economy ministers will meet in Cairo next week to resume talks on boosting trade among their countries as part of long-standing attempts to integrate their economies, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) official was quoted Tuesday as saying.

The ministers from the 22-member Arab League will discuss proposals to increase commercial exchanges reached at a conference held in Cairo in June, said Abdul Raouf Mubarak, economy and trade ministry under-secretary.

"The theme of this 56th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council will be how to boost inter-Arab trade. It will focus on a number of proposals and recommendations in this regard," he told Al Itihad daily.

The September 11-14 talks would also cover a joint Arab address at the upcoming meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Arab states have been locked in efforts to activate internal trade, hit by customs

## French budget gap deepens

PARIS (AFP) — The French budget deficit deepened sharply in the first half of this year to 228 billion francs (\$45.6 billion) which was 69 billion francs more than the figure in June 1994, the budget ministry said Monday.

The deficit had worsened mainly because income from privatisation had been less than the figure in the first half of last year when revenue from privatisation had been considerable, the ministry said. In the first half of last year the sale of shares in the UAP insurance company and in the Elf oil company had raised 50 billion francs.

## Lebanon raises interest rates

BEIRUT (R) — The Bank of Lebanon raised interest rates sharply Tuesday for the second time in a week in what dealers said was an attempt to discourage flight from the Lebanese lira during an upsurge of political tension.

The bank raised its repurchase agreement rate — the rate at which government repays loans, in other words — to 100 per cent from 90 per cent after increasing it from 30 per cent last Wednesday.

Commercial banks followed immediately by raising their overnight rate to 75 per cent from 50 per cent.

"It's preventive, to maintain stability of the Lebanese currency and interest in it," a foreign exchange dealer who asked not to be identified said of the repo rate increase.

"It is to discourage people from switching to U.S. dollars and make it more attractive for them to stay in Lebanese lira," he added.

He said the main cause of political tension was Lebanon's presidential election due in November at the end of President Elias Hrawi's six-year term.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are highly enthused and can get fine ideas and make plans for a more prosperous future for you to make great progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you understand how to get some plan working in a most successful way, but avoid an easily provoked partner this evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are inspired just how to gain the wishes which motivate you, but forget tasks this evening which can bring problems.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put that new system to work which will make your career duties much easier to handle. Be sure to get the OK of a bigwig.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) New conditions are now in the offing so accept them and stop adhering to the old and obsolete. Make as many new contacts as you can.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use a more modern angle in handling business affairs and you get better results. Forget outside visiting and spend time with mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make new agreements with associates and you can come to a better understanding with them. Don't commit yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to find a more modern system for handling your tasks today so that it becomes easier, faster and more successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Partners may have fine ideas which should be listened to and gone along with. Tonight steer clear of any plotting.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Change your attitude at home today and establish more harmony in that vital realm of your existence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to attend important meetings and keep appointments, but don't expect to get a favour from a bigwig this evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make a plan so that you can gain more prosperity today. Rest up and do nothing this evening but watch TV or read.

## THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1 One of a Latin trio

5 Dinner course

10 — in (deceive)

14 — in (deceive)

15 Enraged

16 Marsh bird

17 "Rodeo"

20 Single

21 Acting org.

22 Column type

23 "Peter Pan" character

24 Patois

26 Esteemed

29 Manacles

30 Qum's land

31 Large pleasure boat

32 Droop

35 "Rodeo"

38 DDE's command

40 Helent's abductor

41 Emphatic agreement

42 Watches surreptitiously

43 Travel bag

45 Egg holders

48 Rebel

49 — Irish Rose

50 Mona —

51 Hit the slopes

54 "Rodeo"

58 Gotchal

59 More unusual

60 Bum balm

61 Loch —

62 Ripeners

63 Chapel seating

DOWN

1 Woody's boy

2 Lovers' light

3 Church section

4 Hyson

5 —, sealed and delivered

6 Mountain ridge

7 Refrain syllables

8 Devoiced

9 — Plains

10 Names like Flynn's

11 Actor Michael

12 Municipal

13 Vote in

18 Christian

19 Crown

23 "Song — Blue"

24 Tapered seams

25 Actress

26 Swenson

27 Evil conduct

28 French composer

29 Foundation

31 British cowsheds

32 Kind of rig

33 Thirst quencher

34 Dancer Kelly

36 Place side by side

37 Weather word

38 Lose color

42 Memorial columns

43 Eye shades

44 Hurry-up letters

45 Rough shelter

46 Bellike

47 Nettles

48 Kitchen gadget

50 Musical instrument

51 Vendition

52 Be acquainted with

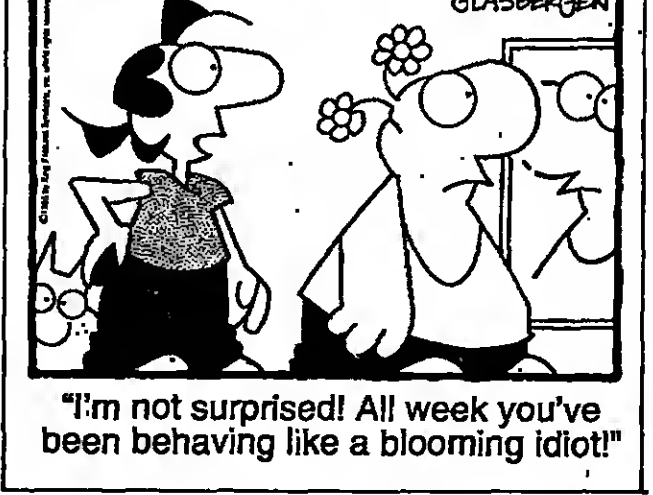
53 Unlucky date

55 Song syllable

56 Purse

57 Circuit

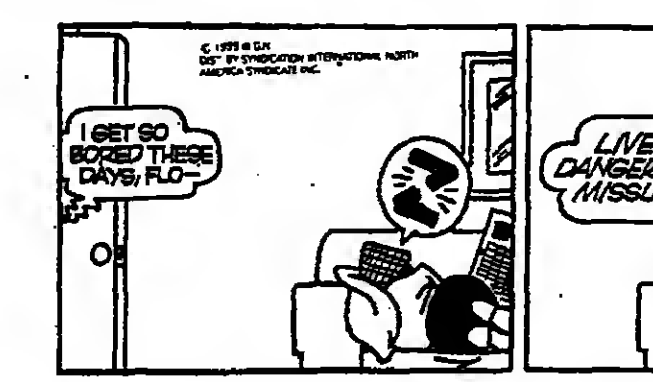
## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



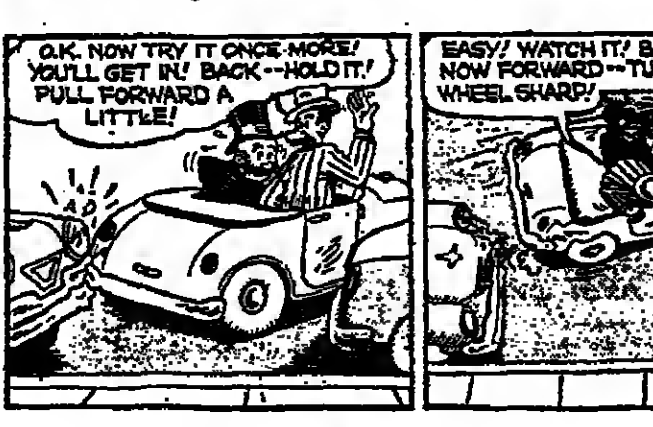
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PYLSH  
NELLK  
DRIBLE  
VESPII

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: GAUDY MOSSY BUTTON ENMITY  
Answer: What a cleaning lady can cost — A TIDY SUM



## Saudis spend \$242 m on advertising in 7 months

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Saudi Arabia spent 908 million riyals (\$242 million) on advertising in the first seven months of this year, a four per cent hike over the equivalent period last year, the Saudi Gazette newspaper has reported.

The English-language daily quoted Bakheet Al Hammad, chairman of the Al Bayan Agency, as saying total spending for the January-July period in 1994 was 871 million riyals (\$232 million).

Mr. Hammad said the increase stemmed from a growing awareness among businessmen of the importance of advertising in marketing products and boosting sales.

He noted that the kingdom's advertising market is the biggest in the Middle East and now has a growth rate of 10 per cent a year.

## Investors turn their back on Olivetti

MILAN (R) — Italian investors have given a resounding thumbs down to Olivetti, a company once hailed as a marvel of Italian high-tech flair, and share analysts see no early end to its woes in sight.

The loss-making group, whose shares have slumped on the Milan Stock Exchange this week, has been pinning hopes of a recovery over the next few years on a mobile telecommunications venture, called Omnitel Prontoitalia, scheduled for launch in the winter.

But mounting losses in personal computers, one of the traditional mainstays of the Olivetti business, have triggered a collapse in confidence among investors who believe that the company shows signs of having lost its way.

"The question people are asking is what this company wants to look like in five years' time or even just next year. The answer is not clear," said a London-based stockbroker who asked not to be identified.

The company has piled up cumulative losses of 2.2 trillion lire (\$1.4 billion) in four years.

Investors say they are also losing patience with repeated assurances by Olivetti that the company is about to recover, which have not been borne out by events.

"We have gone through Olivetti promising us improvements for five years and they have not delivered," said Marie-Christine Keith, an equities analyst at brokers, James Capel in London.

Olivetti's fall from favour has been accompanied by growing disenchantment with the group's chairman, Carlo de Benedetti, who in his heyday in the mid-1980s was one of the darlings of the Italian stock exchange.

"Carlo de Benedetti has lost a lot of favour from the market," said a telecommunications industry analyst with an investment bank in London.

"The track record of what the company says and what it then achieves has not been good. There is a huge credibility gap," the London-based stockbroker commented.

## Worldwide gold sales hit record level in first half of '95 — report

LONDON (AFP) — Jewellery fabrication in India, the world's largest gold importer, and in South East Asia helped to push up global gold sales to a record level in the first half of 1995, according to London-based consultancy.

Gold purchases across the world, in the form of jewellery, coins or bars, reached a record 1,793 tonnes in the first six months of 1995, research group Gold Fields

Mineral Services (GFMS) reported Tuesday.

According to the study, the soaring level of "physical demand" for gold has been largely driven by higher production of gold jewellery in India and South East Asia.

Imports by Japan, however, also grew rapidly. The yen's strength against the dollar made gold much cheaper, and the Japanese began buying far larger quantities of

precious metals after the Kobe earthquake.

They were encouraged by the fact that those inhabitants of the city who held stock certificates mainly lost their savings, while those holding precious metals had more success in finding their nest egg among the ruins of their houses.

In Europe, GFMS said that those countries with hard cur-

rencies bought "a significant tonnage" of gold, while the United States investment funds "adopted a more or less neutral position."

On the supply side, worldwide mining production was one per cent down at 1,110 tonnes in the first half of the year. Output declined in all four large Western gold producers: South Africa, the U.S., Australia and Canada.

## Restaurants for eating, nightclubs for fun

A COMMITTEE representing the Ministry of Interior, the Amman Governorate, the Amman Police Directorate and the Ministry of Tourism is currently considering the structure of restaurants and nightclubs in the capital. The committee will supervise the functions of restaurants and nightclubs under new basis and regulations, the most important of which is to separate the activities of both businesses. Restaurants will not be allowed to take on the role of nightclubs and any restaurants wishing to offer nighttime entertainment will be converted to a nightclub. The Ministry of Interior and the Amman Governorate have recently restricted giving permissions to artists working in restaurants but yesterday (Monday) decided to continue issuing permits as usual (Al Ra'i).

THE AMMAN Bank for Investment (ABI) has reached an advanced stage in its negotiations for a merger with a large banking institution. The manager of the bank said that although the ABI lost JD 1.6 million as a result of selling its share in Rum company, the market value of the ABI share should be much higher than the current trading price. He added that the bank was planning to buy real estate worth JD 2.5 million in the heart of Amman (Al Aswaq).

THE HEAD of the community colleges department at the Ministry of Higher Education said that some colleges will not be accepting applications for this year, implicitly meaning that the founding management of these colleges have opted to close their institutions. Saying that the closures could have been for economic reasons, he named the colleges as follows: The National College, the Jordanian Community College, Petra, Jerash and the Hotel College (Al Aswaq).

A NEW gas well was discovered south of Al Rishah gas field and it is highly probable that other wells will be discovered to make the new field another source providing the Kingdom with gas, the minister of energy and mineral resources said. He indicated that the newly-established National Oil Company would continue searching for gas in the same area. The minister said that Jordan's post-2000 strategy in the energy sector aims at providing industries, electric power stations and Amman houses with gas for operating and heating purposes from local sources as well as from Qatar and Egypt (Al Dustur).

INSPECTORS OF market prices issued 1,400 violation notices during last month, 400 more than the notices given in July 1994. As a result of intense inspections, 222 violations notices were issued to commercial stores selling stationery and school outfits for students, 165 notices to poultry shops, 308 to vegetable and fruit outlets, 280 to restaurants and 45 to bakeries. All violation notices were for raising prices and cheating (Al Aswaq).

STATISTICS FROM the Ministry of Labour show that during the first eight months of this year, a total of 9,135 industrial accidents occurred leading to JD 9.1 million in direct losses and JD 91.3 million in indirect losses. The director of the occupational safety department at the Ministry of Labour attributed the high number of accidents to the increasing number of establishments and to high rate of staff turnover. He noted that 90 per cent of all those who were affected by industrial accidents were new workers. The director said foreign labourers hired to do jobs they cannot handle well was another cause for work accidents (Al Aswaq).

## Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York 12/29/94	London 12/29/94
Sterling Pound	1.5560	1.5535
Deutsche Mark	1.8628	1.8677
Swiss Franc	1.1965	1.2050
French Franc	5.0866	5.0722
Japanese Yen	97.63	98.22
European Currency Unit	1.2765	1.2744

1 USD Per SDR  
European Opening - 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Interest Rates

12/29/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Swiss Franc	2.62	2.62	2.62	2.62
French Franc	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.55	0.56	0.56
European Currency Unit	5.73	5.50	5.50	5.53

Interest rate for overnight borrowing U.S. Dollar 1.00-1.25 per cent

Precious Metals

12/29/1994

Metal	100gms	100gms	100gms	100gms
Gold	374.05	7.50	Silver	5.31
Platinum	1,120			

100gms

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

12/29/1994

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.711	0.713
Sterling Pound	1.1025	1.1040
Deutsche Mark	0.4847	0.4871
Swiss Franc	0.5901	0.5931
French Franc	0.1404	0.1411
Japanese Yen	0.7245	0.7281
Dutch Guilder	0.5326	0.5340
Swedish Krona	0.0637	0.0639
Italian Lira	0.0037	0.0038
Belgian Franc	0.0037	0.0038

Per 100

Other Currencies

12/29/1994

Currency	Buy	Sell
Baharain Dinar	1.0720	1.0870
Lebanese Lira	0.04335	0.044225
Saudi Riyal	0.1899	0.1908
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2950	2.3370
Qatari Riyal	0.1961	0.1955
Egyptian Pound	0.2700	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.6427	1.6500
U.A.R. Dirham	0.1930	0.1961
Greek Drachma	0.2845	0.3335
Cypriot Pound	1.5282	1.5365

Per 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3402/12	Canadian dollar	1.4648/58
	1.6412/22	Deutschemark	1.2018/28
	30.13/17	Dutch guilders	5.0553/03
	1626.07/0	Swiss francs	97.95/05
	7.3060/60	Belgian francs	6.4040/90
	5.6823/73	French francs	
		Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

One sterling	\$1.5542/52
One ounce of gold	\$379.25/79.75

## Lufthansa Group raises first-half revenue by 5.1%

BONN — The Lufthansa group returned a first-half profit in 1995 of DM 189 million before taxes and net variation of special items. This represents an improvement of DM 54 million or 40 per cent on the year-earlier level.

A sharp rise in sales coupled with a tight rein on costs spurred the improvement on the earnings front. Passenger numbers in the first half rose by 11.3 per cent to 19.6 million and cargo tonnage by 17.9 per cent to 787,000 tonnes. This brought a further improvement in utilisation of available capacities. The overall load factor rose by 1.4 percentage points to 69.8 per cent, the best-ever first-half figure in Lufthansa history.

Revenues increased by 5.1 per cent to DM 9.2 billion. Average yield per passenger and per tonne of air freight again declined owing to the weakness of key currencies. Compared with the first-half last year, average per passenger yields fell by five per cent in the first six months and by eight per cent per tonne in the cargo business. Prompt measures, like price adjustments or concentration on high-value market segments, were taken to counteract the strengthening of the DM. These measures considerably lessened the impact of declining earnings from international business activities.

The weakening of key currencies substantially depressed the first-half results as a result of foreign exchange losses and provisions for leasing liabilities totalling about DM 150 million. They were almost completely offset by book profits from the sale of aircraft amounting to DM 139 million.

## Egyptian industry wary of EU partnership

CAIRO (R) — The chief representative of Egyptian industry said a draft "partnership" agreement between Egypt and the European Union (EU) gave the Europeans unfair, advantages and ignored the principle of reciprocity.

Mohammad Farid Khamis, president of the Federation of Egyptian Industries, in an article published in the government newspaper Al Ahrar, said the draft was really a covert attempt to protect the EU from competition.

Mr. Khamis said he objected in particular to the way the present draft sets rules of origin for manufactured products.

He said the Europeans wanted to set an upper limit for the proportion of the value of a product contributed by materials imported from outside Egypt, instead of setting a lower limit for the value added locally in the manufacturing process.

"It is no secret to us that the criterion set by the European Union has been specially designed to maximise the advantage of the European side, flouting the first principles of mutual interests," he added.

If Egypt signed the agreement in its present form, it would lose any relative advantage it has through low labour costs, because the lower the final cost of a product, the lower the value of the components that could come from abroad, he said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET  
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHAMSISANI  
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 05/09/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
ARAB BANK P.C.	1020	234120	229.600	228.480
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2465	11067	4.800	4.480
BANK OF JORDAN	2507	8523	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	7970	9276	1.170	1.160
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	800	2008	2.500	2.810
THE SCIENTIFIC BANK	1300	1403	3.700	5.690
JORDAN KAWAT BANK	12368	34382	2.780	2.780
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1559	5831	3.760	3.740
UNITED BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	224	907	4.130	4.050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	4000	4.000	4.000
BEIT ELNAHAL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2200	7079	3.250	3.200
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	58700	58230	990	990
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2460	3810	1.550	1.550
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>94663</b>	<b>386746</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 185.94</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.442</b>
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	384	1001	2.610	2.620
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 135.21</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.051</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	18407	30001	1.630	1.630
JORDAN HIMES MINERAL	100	250	2.500	2.800
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1000	5500	5.500	5.500
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1300	3539	2.700	2.730
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	597	1245	2.080	2.090
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	250	250	1.030	1.000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST CORPORAOTE HOTELS	2600	5836	2.240	2.250
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	7200	12939	1.810	3.190
BARAKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1450	1948	1.340	1.350
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>33004</b>	<b>72485</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 126.24</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.172</b>
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1981	7280	3.680	3.670
JORDAN PROSPERITY MINES	1117	3360	3.000	3.010
THE ARAB FOODS	750	3711	4.950	4.950
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1189	10935	9.430	9.400
MOORE INDUSTRIES	20250	31388	1.530	1.550
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2801	8896	3.180	3.180
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	5264	26696	5.050	5.050
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	800	1280	2.520	2.560
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	150	600	3.900	4.000
THE PUBLIC MINING	1000	3000	3.000	3.000
DAR AL QAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2430	18325	7.580	7.500
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	1400	13007	3.560	3.460
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	142750	77078	530	540
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1750	2417	1.390	1.380
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	52480	53380	1.020	1.010
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1000	1870	1.870	1.910
ALADIA INDUSTRIES	800	3452	4.200	3.360
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	200	894	4.440	4.540
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	950	2064	2.150	2.170
KAWTHER INVESTMENT	1800	2980	1.580	1.650
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3150	10089	3.160	3.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6020	12029	1.980	1.990
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	2100	3486	1.650	1.660
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	7650	10549	1.380	1.370
UNION CHEMICALS & MANUFACTURE OIL INDUSTRIAL	3466	1346	2.060	2.070
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>261072</b>	<b>310289</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 126.31</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.037</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>389123</b>	<b>770521</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 156.37</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.242</b>
<b>NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET</b>	<b>167765</b>			
<b>VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET</b>	<b>158916</b>			

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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## Ahli-Orthodoxi controversy still unresolved

### Kingdom's basketball competitions to resume Sept. 25

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Monday decided to go ahead with all matches postponed after the Aug. 20 violence during the Ahli-Orthodoxi Under-22 match, there was no indication that the strained relations between Jordan's basketball powerhouses was about to be resolved.

Representatives from the Ministry of Youth also attended the JBF's regular meeting after the federation's committee so far failed to reconcile differences between the two clubs.

In a press release Tuesday, the JBF announced that the women's competition would resume Sept. 25

and the U-22 matches Oct. 3. Representatives of participating clubs, except for Al Orthodoxi, attended the meeting to agree on the new dates.

If Al Orthodoxi fail to show up for their scheduled matches, their decision will have a very negative impact as 1995 JBF regulations stipulate that players of any team withdrawing from competitions will automatically be free to join any other club.

While Al Orthodoxi had announced that they were suspending all basketball activities following the Aug. 20 controversial match, the JBF has given Al Orthodoxi another three weeks to reconsider their decision.

The JBF had reviewed

the tape recording of the match and based on reports from the technical committee, referees and eyewitnesses decided to suspend Al Orthodoxi's Ihab Msih and Al Ahli's Faisal Ensour for two months each for starting the brawl that led to the baling of the match. Al Ahli were also considered the winners of the match after Al Orthodoxi withdrew with Al Ahli leading 66-57 in the tenth minute of the second half. Al Orthodoxi's Mustafa Al Ghoul who attacked a referee during the same match was suspended until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Al Orthodoxi and Al Ahli were continuing their war of words with each side accusing the other of instigating the violence and tense scene.

While both clubs have been the Kingdom's undisputed rivals for the past two decades, relations between the two clubs have never been so bad.

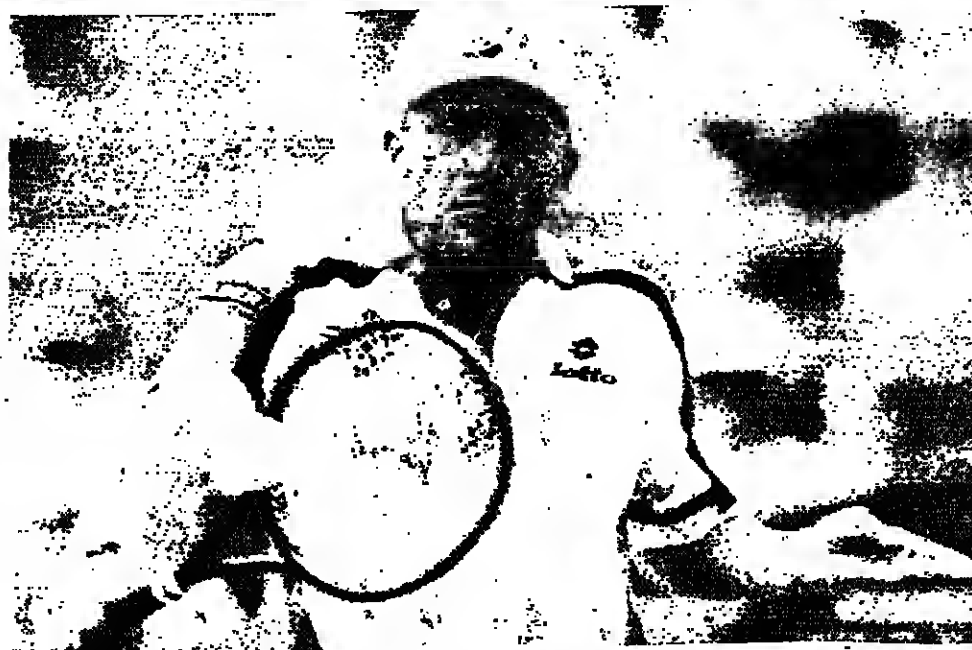
Al Orthodoxi held a powerful grip on the basketball scene until 1990 when they lost the title to Al Ahli who have been the champions for the past three years.

Not only basketball, but swimming and handball events were also marred by unsportsmanlike incidents during the past week. Events of the Jordan Swimming Championships were put on hold after referees announced they were pulling out until the Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) takes the decision to

bar Al Orthodoxi's swimmer Osama Al Halman who had attacked a referee earlier in the week.

So far, the JSF has not taken any decision regarding the swimmer whose club insisted that he continues his participation in the week-long event. In handball, two Orthodoxi players also attacked their opponents during a second division match and they were suspended by the Jordan Handball Federation.

In their latest meeting the JBF also decided not to participate in the Arab Junior Basketball Championship which is scheduled to start in Cairo Oct. 4. Local basketball activities and a late invitation were cited as the reasons for not participating.



Boris Becker of Germany hits a backhand during his U.S. Open match (AFP photo)

## Agassi, Seles move into U.S. Open quarterfinals

NEW YORK (R) — The Andre Agassi juggernaut and the Monica Seles comeback express chugged into the U.S. open quarter-finals Monday on a day of little drama at the National Tennis Centre.

Top seed and defending champion Agassi ran his summer hardcourt winning streak to a personal-best 24 in a row with a routine 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 victory over 75th-ranked fellow American Jared Palmer.

Seles faced her toughest opposition since her return to big-time tennis last month from hard-hitting German Anke Huber, the 11th seed. Still, the 21-year-old superstar dropped just five games en route to a 6-1, 6-4 victory as things settled back to business as usual after Sunday night's upset of women's defending champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario by Mary Joe Fernandez.

"I felt really good, the heat wasn't bothering me at all," said Seles, whose fitness was an obvious question mark after a layoff of more than two years.

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 140 and 193. World number one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a letdown after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

"You do what you got to do to win, that's the key," said Agassi, who didn't work too hard on the Labour Day holiday.

"I am in here just getting through the matches, ready to peak when I have to," said the reigning Australian Open champion, who looks on course for a semifinal with Boris Becker in what would be a rematch of the Wimbledon semifinal won by the German this year.

Fourth seed Becker, the 1989 open champion but a first-round loser last year, played giant killer to reach the quarter-finals.

Becker never faltered from the service line in founting out a 7-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over towering 17th seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland, the tallest player in the tournament at 6-foot-7 (2.01).

"I'm playing the right way. I am aggressive all the time," said Becker, who pronounced himself at the top of his hardcourt game.

Agassi will play former French Open runner-up Peter Korda in the quarter-finals.

Korda of the Czech Republic advanced with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 victory over American Vince Spadea, surprise third-round conqueror of seventh-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Becker awaits the unseeded American Patrick McEnroe who beat Czech Daniel Vacek.

McEnroe beat unseeded Vacek 7-6 (10-8) 6-3, 6-4 under the lights on the stadium court to reach the quarter-finals for the first time.

Raised just minutes from the tournament, the unseeded McEnroe fended off three set points in the first set in the high point of drama in

the two hour and 11 minute match.

"When I won the first set I was in pretty much control," said the 29-year-old McEnroe, whose older brother John, a four-time Open champion, was working as a television commentator for the match.

Next for McEnroe, ranked 42nd in the world, is Becker, in their second grand slam matchup this year. McEnroe bounced Becker out of the season-opening Australian Open in the first round.

The second-seeded Seles next runs into veteran Czech serve and volleyer Jana Novotna.

The fifth-seeded Novotna needed 68 minutes to close out unseeded Slovakian Katarina Stupkova 6-4, 6-3 to earn her shot at the 1991 and 1992 U.S. Open champion.

For a change Seles appeared to have to work fairly hard for her victory, at least in the second set.

While Huber is the first player to keep Seles on court for more than an hour (71 minutes), it was really a concentration lapse by Seles that kept the second set close.

Seles opened the set with a service break, but failed to hold her own serve, a lapse that weighed heavily on her mind over the next few games.

"That made the second set much harder than if I had won that second game," she said.

"I had such a great

momentum going and my mind wandered off."

Seles dismissed any suggestion that she was merely getting fatigued.

"I wasn't tired. I didn't even cross my mind. I think I was just preoccupied with the thought of that second game."

The day produced one minor upset when 16th-seeded Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz-McCarthy used her big serve and volley game to pick off seventh seed Kimiko Date of Japan.

Date, a French Open semifinalist who had reached the quarters the past two years here, ran out of steam in her fourth consecutive three-set match.

Schultz-McCarthy advanced to a quarter-final showdown with fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, who held off American Zina Garrison Jackson 7-6, 7-5 to run her summer hardcourt record to a perfect 14-0.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him. "I'm very confident as at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hardcourt tournament he has played this year.

"I like my chances against anybody if I am playing my best."

### U.S. Open notebook

Team tennis may be the way to get youngsters playing the game.

At least that's what the U.S. Tennis Association and World Team Tennis Inc. are hoping. The two organizations have been promoting team tennis on their own. Now they have decided to join forces.

About 500,000 junior tennis players are expected to take part in the joint venture, which will include combined competition in boys' singles, girls' singles, boys' doubles, girls' double and mixed doubles.

"We have identified a number of distinct advantages for forming this association between the USTA and World Team Tennis and we feel we are doing something that is good for the future of the game," USTA president Les Snyder said Monday.

Added WTT director Billie Jean King: "Today, boys and girls are very active in team sports and we feel strongly that we can introduce more of them to tennis. In a positive way, by offering them the chance to compete as a team."

Monica's moniker: Monica Seles was a happy fourth-round winner Monday. So happy in fact that before walking off stadium court after defeating 11th-seeded Anke Huber of Germany, Seles decided to autograph a CBS sports television camera.

With black marker in hand, Seles wrote her name across the camera lens. Unfortunately, Seles didn't sign her name backwards, so television viewers were graced with "Ainom Seles" across their TV screen.

Lucky for CBS, Seles actually signed a protective glass cover over the camera lens.

The actual lens costs \$85,000.

Old-timers fan: Many of the favourite tennis players of the 1960s and '70s are entertaining fans during the U.S. Open in corporate outings.

Grand Slam Sports, a company whose president is Australian star Fred Stolle, will play host to 26 corporate outings during the Open dates.

Roy Emerson, Ben Rosewall, Cliff Drysdale and Stolle are among the ex-players to participate.

Many of these corporate events took place at the Westside Tennis Club in Forest Hills, the former site of the U.S. Open. A number of these events will take place at the National Tennis Centre, where the open is held now. These include events for the New York Stock Exchange, Mass Mutual, American Express Platinum Card and Tennis Magazine.

Stall support: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy is the first Dutchwoman since Betty Stove in 1977 to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

The 16th seed moved into the final eight by virtue of a three-set victory over No. 7 Kimiko Date.

And who was front and centre offering Schultz-McCarthy support during the Date Match?

## Colombian boxers winning titles, having troubles with success

PALENQUE, Colombia (AP) — They have risen to the heights: from the pitted streets of this dirt-poor town and others like it in Colombia to win boxing's most coveted international titles.

Then, as if on the wrong end of a right hook, many have come crashing back down.

Antonio Cervantes — "kid pambale" to boxing fans — won the World Boxing Association's junior welterweight title in 1972 and held it until Aaron Pryor knocked him out in the fourth round in Cincinnati in 1980.

For that fight alone, Cervantes earned \$200,000.

Cervantes, 49, now lives in a concrete apartment surrounded by a dirt yard littered with broken glass. All his winnings are gone.

Cervantes is one of many former top boxers who have fallen on hard times. Besides economic woes, a string of tragedies has also hit Colombian boxers. Among recent incidents:

— While fighting for the WBC super featherweight title in Las Vegas in May, Jimmy Garcia suffered brain damage and died after 13 days in a coma.

Thousands of grief-stricken fans, who had worshipped Garcia as a hometown hero, attended his burial in the coastal city of Barranquilla.

— Elvis Alvarez, a 1991 WBA bantamweight champion, was murdered in July, apparently over the attempted theft of his motorcycle.

— WBO featherweight champion Ruben Palacio was stripped of his title in 1993

after a pre-fight exam showed he had the AIDS virus. He is now imprisoned in the United States for heroin smuggling.

If there's one area of Colombia that produces boxing champions, it is the Caribbean coast — hot, humid and laid back.

Street parties, fueled by rum and aguardiente, the local firewater, can last all night.

At some parties, youths set up impromptu boxing matches. It's a popular sport in poor neighbourhoods and villages because it's cheap — boxing gloves are the only essential gear — and because there's a chance that with skill, dedication and bravery, a young fighter can join the 23 Colombians who have won world titles in the past two decades.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### FIFA gives all-clear on doping tests

ZURICH (AP) — All 56 doping tests carried out at international soccer championships this year proved negative, the sport's governing body FIFA said Monday. The tests were carried out at the World Youth Championships in Qatar in April, the women's World Cup in Sweden in June and the Under-17 tournament in Ecuador last month. FIFA said 24 players were tested in Qatar and 12 in Ecuador. Twenty women were tested in Sweden. It said specialists at laboratories accredited by the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland, Sweden and Mexico had given the all-clear.

#### Fresh injury blow for England

LONDON (R) — England's injury problems for Wednesday's soccer friendly against Colombia worsened on Monday. Coach Terry Venables, already without captain David Platt, Liverpool striker Stan Collymore and Manchester United defender Barry Pallister, looks like having to discard two more when he picks his team on Tuesday. Nottingham Forest's left back Stuart Pearce, who has a hamstring problem, and Newcastle forward Peter Beardsley failed to get through the full training programme on Monday. Beardsley completed the first, strenuous training session but then twisted a knee in the second, more gentle workout.

#### Maradona vexed by Caniggia drug test

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The Argentine Football Association is unfairly targeting past offenders in a bid to crack down on drug abuse, Diego Maradona claims. Maradona, whose second 15-month playing ban for drug-related offenses expires on Sept. 30, said three tests on striker Claudio Caniggia in the last four weeks made a mockery of what was supposed to be random selection. "This is a country of squealers. It's ridiculous that Caniggia has been tested three times," Maradona said in a radio interview from the Uruguayan resort of Punta Del Este where he is undergoing a fitness programme behind closed doors. In Argentine League and Cup games, two players from both sides are picked randomly to undergo doping tests. Maradona last year clashed with Argentine national coach Daniel Passarella, who said he was in favour of all players in his squad having rhinoscopy — an examination of the internal structures of the nose — to detect cocaine use.

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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
48 CE 4953 OK 1864 A94  
Partner opens the bidding with one of trump. What do you respond?

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
445 532 0495744 AA4  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
10 Pass 10 Pass  
20 Pass 30 Pass  
What action do you take?

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
44 Q 952 0982 AA852  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
44 Q 75 06 OK Q 752 A103  
The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 10 Pass  
20 Pass 20 Pass  
What action do you take?

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
44 Q 4 0485 0785 AAQJ  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
44 1072 OK Q 0A Q 1093 46  
The bidding has proceeded:  
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH  
Pass 10 Pass 10 Pass  
20 Pass 20 Pass  
What action do you take?

TODAY AT	<b>CINEMA TEL: 634144</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Woody Harrelson & Kiefer Sutherland <b>The Cowboy Way</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CINEMA TEL: 699238</b> <b>PLAZA</b> Adel Imam & Yusra <b>Birds of the Darkness</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CINEMA TEL: 677420</b> <b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD "1"</b> Adel Imam & Yusra <b>Birds of the Darkness</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>Striking Distance</b> Shows: 3:30, 5:45, 8:45, 10:45	<b>AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275</b> <b>MUSA HIAJAZIN</b> <b>"Sumaa"</b> IN <b>Hi Citizen</b> daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawafef	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571</b> Presents <b>KABARET</b> Abeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khami Jahlmani, Mohammad Hussaini and Issam Al Harbali The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.	<b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Tel: 625155</b> <b>AHLAN THEATRE</b> presents <b>(Ahlan Tatbee')</b> Welcome <b>Normalisation</b> Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman
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## Taxpayers giving millions to Olympics

ATLANTA (AP) — Even the Americans who haven't personally spent a dime yet for a ticket or T-shirt are helping Atlanta pay for the 1996 Olympic Games — through federal tax dollars.

Through the games themselves are privately funded from sources including television rights, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales, the U.S. government is pitching in, tens of millions of dollars worth of services that are crucial to their success.

The biggest expenditures: \$35 million for security, carried out mainly by the military.

\$28 million for buses and other transportation assistance.

Federal agencies also will be involved in trash pickup, recycling, testing energy technology, bicycle trail construction and environmental protection, among other areas.

An aide to Vice President Al Gore, whose office is coordinating the federal government's Olympic activities, said he did not know the total amount of money the various agencies are spending. Some estimates have put the figure as high as \$92 million.

The State of Georgia is spending more than \$150 million on public buildings that will be used during the games, though no state tax

money is going directly to the Olympics. Atlanta and other local governments are spending about \$90 million on projects related to the Olympics.

Olympics officials and their supporters in Congress defend the federal spending as necessary for an event that will attract thousands of foreign visitors.

"We as a nation have been able to achieve perfect symmetry between paying taxes and receiving federal benefits," said Jack Quinn, Gore's chief of staff. "You in Georgia pay tax dollars to build roads in Idaho, and there's no getting around that."

## Fast-hand Indian champion faces Kasparov

LONDON (R) — Young Indian grandmaster Vishy Anand is counting on a secret weapon to defeat Garry Kasparov in this month's World Chess Championships — plenty of cycling.

Anand, reputed to be the fastest player in the world, has spent the last 3½ months secluded with his seconds in Spain training for the most important match of his life.

But every day Anand leavened the long hours of methodical analysis with a spot of cycling to get fit for the grueling 20-game showdown, which starts in New York on September 11.

Anand, 25 and the world's number two, says physical fitness can be almost as important as mental sharpness in a chess match.

"If my chess preparation is much superior to my opponent's, it won't be a question," he told Reuters in an interview.

"But give or take a very small difference, the stamina and how long you're able to concentrate will make all the difference. So depending on how well-matched the chess is, the physical aspect assumes really huge proportions," he added.

Tall and bespectacled, Anand says it will be a strange experience to try to vanquish Kasparov, who has been world champion throughout the Indian's professional career.

"I always tend to defer to him a little bit. He's always the star figure... so it'll be a bit funny that I'm competing directly with him," he says with a chuckle.



Chess champion Garry Kasparov (left) take down notes while opponent Vishy Anand stops his clock during their match in March 1993 (AFP photo)

Anand made waves last September by beating the computer that had knocked out Moscow-based Kasparov in a speed chess Grand Prix in London — taking only five minutes out of the allotted 25 to make all his moves.

Earlier this year he beat Kasparov himself in the Moscow leg of the same competition.

But classic chess is a different game and Anand, whose

success has triggered a devotional in chess back home in India, is under no illusion about the task he faces in New York.

Kasparov is widely regarded as the most dynamic attacking player in chess history — as Briton Nigel Short, the previous challenger, discovered to his cost when he was thrashed in 1992.

"Kasparov just went for his throat," Anand recalled.

"He analyses the game to the bone and it's given him an unbeatable advantage in the openings. He's just a very strong player."

His record against Kasparov, who became the youngest-ever world champion in 1985, is two wins two draws and five losses, and he goes into the New York tournament — to be held on the observation deck of the World Trade Center — as

underdog. But he said a lot would depend on how well he copes with the pressures that the tournament, including intense media interest, will generate.

"I don't know really what to expect, but I'm trying to anticipate the worst," said Anand, who talks as quickly as he plays. "I think I'll have my chances if I can cope with all these things."

## Major League Results

NEW YORK (R) — Results of Major League Baseball games played on Monday

### American League

New York	13	Seattle	3
Detroit	3	Cleveland	2
California	5	Baltimore	3
Minnesota	9	Milwaukee	6
Toronto	6	Kansas City	1 (1st)
Kansas City	9	Toronto	7 (2nd)
Chicago	14	Texas	3

### National League

Chicago	2	Colorado	0
Cincinnati	6	Houston	1
San Francisco	2	Montreal	1
Florida	7	Pittsburgh	3
Atlanta	6	St. Louis	5
San Diego	2	New York	1 (in 10)
Los Angeles	5	Philadelphia	1

## Unhappy Baggio only a spectator

UDINE, Italy (R) — Roberto Baggio was relegated to the substitute's bench on Tuesday when Italy named their team for Wednesday's European championship qualifier against Slovenia.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi opted instead for Parma's Gianfranco Zola as a partner for in-form Juventus striker Fabrizio Ravanelli in a conventional 4-4-2 formation against a Slovenian team who should prove little threat.

Baggio, the 'divine ponytail,' has not played for his country since a 2-1 defeat by Croatia last November. The delight of his recall to the squad has receded with the dawning realization that he is no longer an automatic choice.

Victory in Udine on Wednesday is essential for Italy if they are eventually to overhaul leaders Croatia in Group Four and qualify for next year's finals. Croatia have amassed 19 points from eight games while Italy have 13 from six.

Sacchi, who needs to field a convincing team after a poor series of qualifying results, had kept pundits guessing about his choice, stirring the pot with a hint on Monday that Giuseppe Signori could edge Zola out of place in the line-up.

## Cowboys blow away Giants 35-0

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys were playing the New York Giants Monday night. But the statement they made was to the San Francisco 49ers:

"We're back. And we're better than ever."

With Emmitt Smith, going 60 yards for a touchdown on Dallas' third play from scrimmage and scoring three other times, the Cowboys blew away the Giants 35-0 in a game that wasn't as close as the score indicated.

The only negative for the Cowboys was an Achilles tendon injury to Kevin Smith, their left cornerback that coach Barry Switzer said was probably season ending.

The prime-time rout allowed the nation — and the 49ers — to see a Dallas team that looked every bit as good as the one that won two superbowl before losing in the NFC title game to San Francisco last year.

The Cowboys led 21-0 at the half, then scored twice more after intermission before sending in the scrubs, winning a lot more impressively than did the 49ers, who beat New Orleans 24-22 Sunday.

"As I told Emmitt, that's the way to start '95, the first time you touch the ball," Dallas coach Barry Switzer said. "That sort of set the tone for the game tonight."

But the defense and special teams were just as good against a Giants team not ready for such an opponent. Because of injuries, the

Giants' full offense never played together during the exhibition season. Dave Brown was 20 of 34 for 155 yards, much of the yardage meaningless.

Smith is one of the NFL's better cornerbacks, and now the Cowboys need a replacement. Switzer is already on the case, begging owner Jerry Jones to sign Deion Sanders, who helped the 49ers win last year and is being sought by both teams this season.

"If Jerry is around him, I'm going to tell him. It's serious now," Switzer said. "Get Deion. We need Deion now. It ain't showtime anymore. It's serious business."

There was no need for Deion on Monday night.

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## FIFA discusses World Cup revenue

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA President Joao Havelange met Monday with top television officials to discuss broadcast fees for the next World Cup finals.

The meeting focused on a revised offer from the international television consortium for the exclusive television rights to the 1998 finals, said FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper.

Under a 1987 contract, the consortium agreed to pay FIFA 135 million Swiss francs (\$113 million) for the television rights for the World Cup in France, up from 115 million francs (\$96 million) for the 1994 finals in the United States.

However, that deal now has to be revised to reflect the expanded finals format. The finals in France will feature 64 matches — up from the 52 games last year — because the number of participants will be increased to 32 from 24.

Cooper declined to say

how much the latest offer was worth.

A FIFA statement merely said there was a "constructive exchange of views on the implications for television of the increase in the number of matches."

Members of the international consortium and Albert

Scharf, president of the European Broadcasting Union — which represents European television companies — attended the meeting, FIFA said.

The meeting in Zurich was held prior to next week's official inspections of the World Cup sites in France.

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## Chirac says nuclear tests may be cut short

PARIS (Agencies) — France may cut short a planned series of seven or eight underground nuclear tests in the South Pacific that has caused a worldwide storm of protest, President Jacques Chirac said Tuesday.

"If we have the information we need to change over to simulation, before the eight tests, obviously, regardless of the opinions of whomsoever, I will stop the tests. My objective is not to carry out eight tests," Mr. Chirac said.

In any case, we will stop the tests before the date I have indicated, which was May 31," he said in a live French TV interview.

As for when the tests would begin, Mr. Chirac refused to respond to the numerous rumours as to dates, saying simply that the first test would take place "as soon as the technicians consider the time has come."

Mr. Chirac sparked worldwide outcry by governments and nuclear activists alike when he announced in June that the tests would be conducted between September and the end of May.

The conservative president argues the tests, which would end France's three-year-old moratorium, are needed to update the country's nuclear arsenal and develop simulation technology to render the tests obsolete.

"A country that wants to live in security should not lower its guard... in a very uncertain world," Mr. Chirac said in the interview. He cited the existence of

"thousands and thousands" of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Chirac reaffirmed that at the end of the tests, "France will sign the nuclear test ban treaty" and will support the zero option that would prohibit even small test blasts Washington has sought to continue.

Meanwhile, a French official, who asked not to be named, said the first test might take place at 0600 GMT Wednesday.

There was no official announcement. France has said it will announce tests only after they have been held and not provide the dates in advance.

The government has said only that the series of seven or eight tests would be conducted sometime between Sept. 1 and May 31.

The head of the French Polynesian government, Gaston Flosse, said in Papeete on Monday that France would stage the first blast before the end of the week.

"President Jacques Chirac has asked me to join him in Paris after the first test, and I will leave at the end of the week," Mr. Flosse said on radio.

The tests, much condemned by other nations, will be held underground at Mururoa atoll, around 1,200 kilometres southeast of Papeete.

On Monday, four Greenpeace activists staged a "symbolic" raid on Mururoa before being detained by French commandos.

In Papeete, politicians

from around the world, including Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Take-mura, have held anti-nuclear meetings for the past three days.

Mr. Flosse said foreign anti-nuclear protesters should leave the internal policies of French Polynesia and France alone.

"I am more than upset. I am shocked, by the presence of all these foreigners," Mr. Flosse said.

"Australians, New Zealanders, Japanese and others come into our territory and intrude in the internal policies of our country," he said.

Mr. Flosse said France did not interfere with the treatment of aborigines in Australia or minorities in Japan because these were "internal affairs."

"So, I say to all these foreigners, stay in your country and don't intrude in our country's policies," Mr. Flosse said.

Four Greenpeace activists, two men and two women, entered the Mururoa lagoon on Monday in two inflatable dinghies, but were quickly captured.

Greenpeace said it had information the first test was imminent and launched the "symbolic" protest because it did not have the resources for a major action.

The four activists aimed to reach Vice-Admiral Philippe Evuere, head of French naval forces in the South Pacific, to protest against the French nuclear test plans.

## Jordan, Yemen review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Tuesday received a message from Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by visiting Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi in the presence of Minister of Supply Adel Qudah, who in the past two days held talks with the Yemeni minister on Jordanian-Yemeni cooperation in supply affairs.

At the meeting with the prime minister discussions covered bilateral cooperation and ways by which Yemen can benefit from Jordan's experience in

stocking food supplies and in subsidising prices for limited income groups. Sharif Zeid expressed

Jordan's readiness to pursue cooperation and to do all it can to reestablish solidarity among Arab

countries. He also expressed Jordan's willingness to provide Yemen with expertise.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Tuesday meets Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi (second from right). Also present at the meeting were the Minister of Supply Adel Qudah (left) and the Yemeni ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo)

## Arafat and Peres start marathon talks today for accord by Friday

### Settler stabbed to death in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will start talks in Egypt on Wednesday to try to seal a deal on extending Palestinian self-rule, officials said.

The talks will start late Wednesday and go on until Friday in the Egyptian Red Sea coastal town of Taba, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

"The two leaders will try to resolve the last outstanding problems in order to sign the accord on Sept. 18 in Washington," Arafat advisor Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

The issue of an Israeli army withdrawal from the town of Hebron is one question which is yet to be resolved, he said.

Israel wants to maintain security control of the town where 400 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians. In February 1994 a settler gunned down 29 Muslims at prayer in the Tomb of the Patriarchs there.

Mr. Abu Rudeina said the 6,500 Palestinians still being held in Israeli jails posed another problem.

A senior Israeli official told AFP: "The aim is to seal the accord before the Sabbath by marathon negotiations." The Sabbath starts at sundown on Friday.

Apart from an Israeli withdrawal on the West Bank, the agreement is also to include a transfer of civil powers to Palestinians in the region and elections to a self-rule council.

Israel meanwhile vowed not to remove the Jewish settlers from Hebron but admitted they posed a security dilemma for the planned army redeployment on the West Bank.

"The government has no intention of dismantling settlements and the army redeployment will take place on the West Bank in line with this commitment," Mr. Peres said.

"This includes the Hebron settlements," he added. "We have a serious problem with the security of the settlers and at the same time we have to honour our commitments and allow the Palestinians to organise elections," said Mr. Peres, who toured Hebron with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday.

Meanwhile, a Jewish settler from England was stabbed to death and his American wife seriously wounded Tuesday in a West Bank attack the army blamed on Palestinian militants.

The pregnant woman, lost her baby as a result of the pre-dawn attack in the isolated West Bank settlement of Maaleh Mikhmash.

Police said they were still investigating whether the assailants were burglars or guerrillas bent on derailing the Israel-PLO autonomy negotiations.

An anonymous caller to a Western news agency claimed responsibility for the attack in the name of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a militant group that opposes the PLO and rejects peace with Israel.

In response to the stab-bings, Jewish settler leaders and some hardline Israeli politicians demanded a halt to the Israel-PLO negotiations.

However, Mr. Peres rejected demands to halt the negotiations which have reached a final phase.

"There was terror before the peace process, and if there will not be peace, there will be even more terror," Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio.

But the West Bank's army commander, Major General Dan Biran, said that after the planned troop redeployment, "it will be much more complicated" to prevent attacks on Israelis.

Residents of Maaleh Mikhmash identified the slain man as Daniel Fry, 28, who immigrated from England seven years ago and has lived in the settlement since 1992.

His wife Mara was in stable condition Tuesday in hospital after undergoing surgery for multiple stab wounds in the right side and arm.

Mrs. Fry was three months pregnant. Hospital officials initially said the fetus appeared unharmed, but later said it did not survive the stabbing.

The Frys live on the outskirts of Maaleh Mikhmash which, unlike most settlements, did not have a fence. Police said that at one point, Fry heard a noise and walked outside to investigate.

He was stabbed to death. When his wife followed him outside, she was also attacked. The assailants escaped.

After the attack, troops backed by helicopters searched the area and imposed a curfew on nearby Palestinian villages.

Soldiers also set up checkpoints at roads leading to the PLO-ruled West Bank enclave of Jericho, apparently to prevent the assailants from seeking refuge there. Palestinian motorists were checked, but the roads into Jericho remained open.

Leaders of the opposition Tsomet and Moleket issued statements saying the negotiations must be stopped.

The caller who claimed responsibility for the attack said it was in response to the recent arrest of three PFLP

(Continued on page 2)

## France tightens border controls

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac announced a border clampdown Tuesday as part of security measures aimed at halting a wave of blasts and attempted bombings in and around the French capital.

In his first television interview since taking office in May, Mr. Chirac said he had ordered "very strict" border controls Tuesday in a bid to end the spate of blasts for which he said Algerian radicals were the likeliest culprits.

"It is quite clear that the fact that people can cross the borders easily and without control in either direction is a great facility afforded to terrorists," Mr. Chirac said.

"Therefore, I have asked the government to take very firm steps to impose very strict controls along all the borders of our country."

The reinforcement of border controls comes despite France's commitment to European integration and its nominal inclusion in the group of seven nations which agreed to scrap all border controls earlier this year as part of the so-called Schengen accords on the free movement of people.

France suspended its involvement for six months in the seven-nation pact on the eve of its implementation July 1, citing immigration

problems from non-Schengen nations.

But Mr. Chirac said given the threat of violence and that that armed Islamic fundamentalists were being unearthed across European Union and Schengen nations, France may have to review its long-term commitment to the Schengen pact.

"If the situation does not improve and if our partners do not take steps to impose genuine controls at the external borders of the Schengen area, we will see" what France has to do, he said.

Earlier Monday, a dozen members of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the organisation Mr. Chirac said was most likely to be responsible for the bombings, went on trial in France's Schengen partner Belgium.

And France is still seeking the extradition from Sweden of Algerian Abdul Karim Denecche wanted in connection with the first in the rash of explosions which have rocked Paris this summer.

That bomb, placed in an underground train, killed seven people and injured more than 80 at the Saint-Michel station on July 25. Three weeks later, a bomb exploded near the Arc de Triomphe on Aug. 17, injuring 17 people. In both cases small gas canisters were used.

## Kurdish official urges Turkey to attack PKK

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — A Kurdish official in northern Iraq said in remarks published on Tuesday that Turkish troops should chase rebels of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) out of his province.

"This is why we want to see Turkish soldiers here. Let us fight together with Turkish soldiers against the PKK..." Abdul Aziz Tayyip, governor of northern Iraq's Dohuk province, said in an interview carried by Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency.

Last March 35,000 Turkish soldiers crossed the border to rid the area of PKK guerrillas, who use mountain camps in northern Iraq to launch attacks against Turkey.

Mr. Tayyip was an outspoken critic of the Turkish operation and at the time repeatedly told journalists Turkey should protect its own border rather than cross into northern Iraq.

The six-week operation drew strong criticism from Ankara's Western European allies.

But KDP spokesman Saefeen Dzayee in Ankara told Reuters there were currently no plans to bring in Turkish troops.

"We have held meetings with Turkish authorities and this is not on the agenda at

present," Mr. Dzayee said by telephone.

"But we are coordinating and liaising with Turkish authorities and if necessary some type of specific operation could happen," he said, stressing the KDP had managed to take control of much of the area.

Almost two weeks ago the PKK started attacking Iraqi Kurdish positions in the region held by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of the two main factions in northern Iraq.

The attacks came shortly after the KDP and rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) concluded a temporary ceasefire in U.S.-sponsored talks held in Dublin.

Anatolian also reported that 15 PKK guerrillas were killed in various clashes with Turkish troops in southeast Turkey, but did not specify when the clashes took place.

Iran denies backing attacks

Iran on Tuesday denied Iraqi Kurd charges that it backed the PKK attacks in order to sabotage the Kurdish truce in northern Iraq.

The KDP accused Iran and Syria on Saturday of helping guerrillas to infiltrate northern Iraq to carry out attacks and stir up inter-Kurd conflict.

## Egypt, Israel fail to resolve PoW dispute

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt and Israel failed to resolve a dispute Tuesday over whether Israel should investigate the killing of Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) by Israeli troops during the Arab-Israeli wars.

Egypt has insisted that Israel probe the reports that hundreds of (PoWs) were slain in 1956 and 1967 and punish those found responsible. Israel has said atrocities occurred on both sides and that too much time has passed to prosecute.

"I did not promise (an investigation), but I promised to deliberate what has been suggested," Israel's deputy foreign minister, Eli Dayan, said after meeting Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Musa.

"We will see the appropriate ways to check this issue and to give all the information that we have to the Egyptians," he said.

Mr. Musa did not speak after the meeting, but later told Egypt's Middle East News Agency that Egypt still insisted that Israel account for the killings.

"There has to be an immediate and official investigation since the issue is serious," Mr. Musa said.

The reports of PoW killings surfaced when a retired Israeli general said he killed 49 Egyptian soldiers in 1956. Israeli historians have since suggested that as many as 1,000 Egyptian PoWs were killed, and that Israeli prisoners were executed as well.

"Of course, we agree that these acts are intolerable, not acceptable, illegal, and against our Jewish values and the values of the state and the army," he said.

Killing of PoWs is a violation of the Geneva conventions, but under international law, Egypt cannot force Israel to investigate, Egyptian officials have said that if an investigation proves the charges, they expect Israel to take some kind of action.

"If they are to be found guilty, they will be found so in the eyes of the Israeli law and the Israeli law then will take what action it needs in the case of the guilty person."

Egypt's deputy foreign minister, Badr Hammam, said after the meeting.

Last month, President Hosni Mubarak said Egypt was willing to investigate reports that Egyptian soldiers killed Israeli PoWs. But Mr. Dayan did not present any such charges at the meeting, Mr. Hammam said.

## Talibans overrun key western city

PESHAWAR (Agencies) — Afghanistan's opposition Taliban overran the western city of Herat Tuesday, sending provincial government leaders fleeing towards the Iranian border, a spokesman said. The Afghan government in Kabul conceded the town had fallen.

The newly established Taliban administration immediately declared a three-day holiday, according to United Nations workers in the western city.

It was not clear why government troops fled the Taliban onslaught without a fight or whether they were preparing a retaliatory attack.

"It's still basically calm and peaceful," said David Lockwood, security coordinator and resident representative for the U.N. Development Programme in Kabul, but based in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

Mr. Lockwood said that seven international U.N. workers left Herat late Tuesday afternoon.

"They decided that rumours that the government would put up some resistance was strong enough that they left the city," he said. "We didn't want to say anything until they had safely reached Islamabad Ghala," about 100 kilometres from Herat on the border with Iran.

Until their decision to leave Herat late Tuesday afternoon the U.N. workers were located in the middle of the city.

"Now, they are watching from a safe distance," said Mr. Lockwood. "They didn't see anything on the drive out."

The loss of Herat is a major blow to President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government, whose allies had controlled the city since the collapse of a communist-led

government in Kabul in April 1992.

"We have information that Herat has fallen to the Taliban at around midnight," a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "It appears that it was a quiet takeover."

He said Herat provincial governor General Ismail Khan was reported to have fled and his whereabouts were unknown.

In Kabul, a presidential spokesman accused Pakistani intelligence and militia forces of being involved in the capture of Herat.

"We believe that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and forces are involved in this fighting," Abdul Aziz Murad, official spokesman for President Rabbani, told reporters.

"These are not the Taliban who have captured Herat... they are outside troops under ISI officers like Colonel Imam and Major Gul," allegedly involved in the taking of the city.

"The people of southwestern provinces are under the occupation of outsiders," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Uzbek militia of former General Abdul Rasid Dostum captured Badkhis province hours after the fall of Herat, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum said.

"The capture of Badkhis became easier after the fall of Herat," said Sibghatullah Zaki, a representative of Gen. Dostom's National Movement in Islamabad.

He said the province's defence was weakened after forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani deserted the Herat governor.

Mr. Zaki said anti-Rabbani forces now control the entire western region up to the Turkmenistan border.

But Mr. Rabbani's spokesman in Kabul denied that Badkhis fell.

## Thai king recovers from heart surgery

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej is recovering well from treatment to relieve constriction in a coronary artery, the Bureau of the Royal Household said. The Bureau, in a statement obtained by Reuters Tuesday, said King Bhumibol's condition had shown "remarkable improvement."

His general condition appeared good and his heart was functioning normally, the statement said. "Due to the remarkable improvement of His Majesty's heart ailment, the medical team has shifted from intravenous to oral medication for His Majesty," the statement said. The statement did not say when the king would leave hospital. King Bhumibol, 67, had similar angioplasty treatment in March. He was admitted to hospital Sunday after showing some abnormal coronary symptoms, the bureau said earlier.

## Mother to die for killing child for eyes, kidneys

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh court has sentenced a woman to death by hanging for killing her three-year-old daughter and removing her eyes and kidneys for sale, police said Tuesday. They said the grisly incident occurred in the north Bangladesh district of Rangpur in September last year. Police arrested Bilkis Begum and recovered the corneas of her child, Farzana Bobby. The kidneys were not found. With questions whether kidneys could be removed outside specialised clinics still unanswered, police lodged a case against Mrs. Begum at a Rangpur court and presented the corneas as evidence. Judge Soumendra Sarkar gave his verdict Monday, saying Bobby was strangled to death and subjected to posthumous barbarity. "Begum is thereby sentenced to death," he said. Lawyers said Mrs. Begum could appeal the verdict. Police said they believed Mrs. Begum was involved with illegal limb traders but they had no clear answer why she turned on her own child.

## U.K. to review ban on gays in armed forces

LONDON (AP) — Britain is to review its ban on homosexual men and women in the armed forces. The Ministry of Defence said in a statement that a team of civil servants and representatives from the army, navy and air force will take evidence from military personnel of all ranks and visit the armed forces of several other countries. The team's report will be presented to the government next January. The move follows a ruling in June by the High Court, the second highest court after the Law Lords of the House of Lords, in a case brought by four homosexuals dismissed from the armed forces. The High Court panel of four judges upheld the right of the ministry under British law to dismiss them. But one of the judges, Sir Simon Brown, urged a review of the policy, saying "the tide of history" was turning against the ban. Britain and Turkey are the only two NATO alliance countries which operate a total blanket ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. British Defence chiefs have argued that the ban is essential for the maintenance of military discipline. Peter Tatchell of the homosexual pressure group Outrage claimed that despite the review, the ministry in fact wanted to keep the ban and he called for what he termed a truly independent inquiry. "We know that in the past Ministry of Defence research on this subject has tended to ask very loaded questions," he said. "Service personnel have been quizzed about whether they would mind sleeping in a bunk or sharing a shower with a homosexual." "The Ministry of Defence is terrified that the ban will eventually be overturned, whether by the House of Lords or by the European Court of Human Rights, and that it will face multi-million pound lawsuits from dismissed homosexual personnel," he said.